

Mid-Lower Yukon

Fish & Game Advisory Committee

MEETING PACKET

January 09, 2018

St. Mary's City Hall, 1:00 pm

Teleconference: 1-800-504-8071 code: 5432709



For information on the Western Region Fish and Game Advisory Committees,

Contact:

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MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roster

Chair: Stan Sheppard
Vice Chair: William Alstrom
Secretary: Mildred Fitka

Updated: 12/2017

AC MEMBER NAME	COMMUNITY	TERM EXPIRES	INTERESTS*
Stanislaus Sheppard, Chair	Mountain Village	6/18	
<i>Mathew Waskey, Alt.</i>		6/18	
William Alstrom, Vice-Chair	Andreafski	6/19	
<i>Vacant, Alt.</i>		6/19	
Mildred Fitka, Secretary	Marshall	6/18	
<i>Leonard Fitka Jr., Alt.</i>		6/18	
VACANT	Pilot Station	6/19	
<i>Vacant, Alt.</i>		6/19	
Margaret Guidry	Pitka's Point	6/20	
<i>Karen Thompson, Alt.</i>		6/20	
Basil Larson	Russian Mission	6/19	
<i>Wassily Alexie, Alt.</i>		6/19	
Peter Tyson	St. Mary's	6/17	
<i>Sven Paukan, Alt.</i>		6/17	

*Interests: 1. Trapping; 2. Sport Fishing; 3. Subsistence; 4. Hunting; 5. Commercial Fishing; 6. Photography; 7. Guiding; 8. Processing; 9.

Personal Use; 10. Outdoorsperson; 11. Assoc./Corp.; 12. Conservationist

Mid-Lower Yukon Advisory Committee seats: 7 total (1 Mt. Village, 1 Andreafski, 1 Marshall, 1 Pilot Station, 1 Pitka's Point, 1 Russian Mission, 1 St. Mary's)

Quorum: 4



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES **2017/2018 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Prince William Sound Finfish; Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish; Statewide
Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and other Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Southeast and Yakutat)

Proposal deadline: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 17–19, 2017 [3 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Anchorage Egan Center	October 3, 2017
December 1–5, 2017 [5 days]	Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish	Valdez Valdez Convention & Civic Center	November 17, 2017
January 11–23, 2018 [13 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish	Sitka Harrigan Centennial Hall	December 28, 2017
March 6–9, 2018 [4 days]	Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and other Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Southeast and Yakutat)	Anchorage Egan Center	February 23, 2018

Total Meeting Days: 25

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 17, 2017 [60 days prior to fall work session]

Meeting schedule is tentative and may change.

Rev. July 2017



ADF&G • Boards Support Section

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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2018/2019 Cycle Tentative Meeting Schedule

Bristol Bay Finfish; Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Finfish; Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik Finfish; Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 17-18, 2018 [2 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Anchorage The Lakefront	Oct. 3, 2018
November 28- December 4, 2018 [7 days]	Bristol Bay Finfish	Dillingham TBD	Nov. 14, 2018
January 15-19, 2019 [5 days]	Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	Jan. 2, 2019
February 21-27, 2019 [7 days]	Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	Feb. 7, 2019
March 8-11, 2019 [4 days]	Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	February 20, 2019

Total Meeting Days: 25

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 17, 2018 [60 days prior to fall worksession]

Amended August 28, 2017

**Alaska Board of Game**

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2017/2018 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations**

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
November 9, 2017 (1 day)	Work Session	Anchorage Lake Front Anchorage	October 27, 2017
November 10-17, 2017 (8 days)	Statewide Regulations Statewide Provisions (5 AAC Chapter 92) and Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose (5 AAC Chapter 98)	Anchorage Lake Front Anchorage	October 27, 2017
February 16-23, 2018 (8 days)	Central/Southwest Region Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17.	Dillingham To be announced	February 2, 2018

Total Meeting Days: 17

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Monday, September 11, 2017

(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests.)

Proposal Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017

March 10, 2017



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game (board) meetings generally occur from January through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a "Call for Proposals" generally in December or January prior to the May 1 deadline which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule
Southeast Region – Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i>
Southcentral Region – Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i>
Central and Southwest Region – Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024</i>
Arctic and Western Region – Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i>
Interior and Northeast Region – Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i>
Statewide Regulations (see next page) <i>Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024</i>

The three-year schedule was adopted at the January 2015 Work Session.

MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

Teleconference, 2:00pm

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

CALL TO ORDER: 2:08pm by Stan Sheppard

ROLL CALL: Stan Sheppard, William Alstrom, Mildred Fitka, Margaret Guidry, Basil Larson, Peter Tyson. Alternate: Sven Paukan, Leonard Fitka Jr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Peter Tyson- Asked about a proposal on minimum caliber use on big game submitted by Paul Beans in 2015. Discussion that this may have been discussed when Sherry Wright was the coordinator. Discussion on whether this was a proposal or just comments. Stan Sheppard thought the AC took no action on limiting the caliber on big game. More discussion was tabled until the face to face meeting. OLD BUSINESS was placed after the BOF ACRs.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: William Alstrom made a motion, Peter Tyson seconded.

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Fish and Game Staff: Deena Jallen (CF), Brooke McDavid (Sub. Division), Phillip Perry (WD), David Runfola (Sub. Division), Jen Peek (Boards), Caroline Brown (Sub. Division)
- Other Agency Representatives:
- Members of the Public/ Other: Gene Sandone (Kwik-Pak Fisheries), John Agwiak (Mt. Village)

MOMENT OF SILENCE: In Honor of Mr. Paul Beans

William Alstrom- Mr. Beans had been influential in fish and game issues. He was instrumental in the testimonies he presented. He will be greatly missed on the many boards he served on.

Stan Sheppard- It will be hard to press on with meetings without him. He worked hard for the communities in supporting subsistence. He worked hard at regulating the bycatch so more Yukon River fish would come in and spawn and also advocating for the younger generation. He used a lot of what the elders used. Mr. Beans worked very hard to make sure that salmon always back for our subsistence and commercial needs and made sure the younger generation had that same resource. He is going to be missed and I appreciate all that he did. Thanks to him, he helped create an additional AC so there was more input from our communities. He made the MLY AC possible. He helped bring a bigger voice in testifying for the region.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ TESTIMONY: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Moose antler ACR/ Proposal Update**
This discussion was tabled to the November 20, 2017 in-person meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Statewide Board of Game Proposals**

MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

Teleconference, 2:00pm

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

- **PROPOSAL 4** – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) Change the definition of “edible meat” for large game birds.
- **PROPOSAL 6** – 5 AAC 92.095: Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers.
- **PROPOSAL 8** – 5 AAC 92.095: Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license.
- **PROPOSAL 13** – 5 AAC 92.080(7): Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game.
- **Proposal 24** – 5 AAC 92.044(10): Define the term “equipment” for bear baiting.
- **PROPOSAL 25** – 5 AAC 92.010: Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide.
- **PROPOSAL 31** – 5 AAC 92.050: Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts.
- **PROPOSAL 41** – 5 AAC 92.012: Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag.
- **PROPOSAL 43** – 5 AAC 92.011: Allow the taking of emperor geese by proxy hunting.
- **PROPOSAL 53** – 5 AAC 99.025(a)(12): Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide.
- **PROPOSAL 55** – 5 AAC 92.019: Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches.
- **PROPOSAL 157** – 5 AAC 85.045(16): Reauthorize the resident and nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18.
- **PROPOSAL 163** – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4): Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

- **Board of Fish ACR update:** *Gene Sandone*

Mr. Sandone reviewed which BOF ACRs were accepted by the Board of Fish and would become board-generated proposals.

These proposals will be discussed in more depth at the November 20, 2017 in-person meeting.

MISCILLANEOUS BUSINESS:

MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

Teleconference, 2:00pm

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

ELECT ALTERNATE FOR BOG/ BOF MEETINGS: William Alstrom will be the representative to the Statewide Board of Game meeting; Mildred Fitka and Stan Sheppard will serve as alternates.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Nov. 20, 2017 ~~Postponed~~ **Location:** St. Mary's

ADJOURNMENT: 5:35pm

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting

November 10 – 17, 2017 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
4	Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds		
Support	6	0	William Alstrom made motion to adopt, 2 nd by Basil Larson. Phillip Perry (ADFG) explained the proposal. Similar to federal requirements to birds (cranes, geese and swan). William-No brainer, we all know we as a people who hunt birds, we use everything possible. Recommends we pass this.
6	Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers		
Oppose	0	6	William Alstrom made motion to adopt, 2 nd by Basil Larson. Asked ADFG to clarify.
8	Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license		
Oppose	0	6	Basil Larson adopted, 2 nd by Margaret Guidry. Phillip Perry explained. John Agwiak (member of public) seems to give an unfair advantage to those that own an aircraft. If there is enough support would it have potential to change the regulation for other big game? Phillip Perry (ADFG)- it is asking only for wolf and wolverine and only when using a trapping license. William- agreed with the amendment of the CLYAC on excluding wolverine and apply only to wolves. Have seen a healthy population of wolves. Wondered if there would be an influx in aircrafts chasing furbearers. Would rather oppose or take no action. Stan- small planes may increase in the area. Would there be a limit on how many small aircrafts are in the area? Phillip Perry- difficult to predict hunter behavior. It could lead to more participation but this is a statewide proposal so it would be for across the state. There may be limited impact. Basil Larson- seeing more airplanes for big game near Russian Mission. There was a crash last year involving one of the hunting guides. Could bring more planes. Potential market for non-residents to come and hunt wolves with the increase in moose populations.

MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

Teleconference, 2:00pm

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting

November 10 – 17, 2017 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
13	Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a "cellular or satellite telephone" to take game		
No Action			William Alstrom- certain communications are not allowed such as "walkie-talkies". Could be a disadvantage to some of the game being hunted. Wondering how this would be enforced by law enforcement. Phillip Perry- discussed how cell phones have progressed related to hunting to communicate safety, schedules and maybe misuse in hunting. William- Have been seeing more aircraft activity in the area. We have mountains and trees where access to towers are limited. Gives advantages to trophy hunters if they are in an aircraft. Concerned about the proposal. Would recommend no action. Peter- take no action at this time.
24	Define the term "equipment" for bear baiting		
Oppose	0	6	William- haven't heard of anyone using bait for bears. Bait stations do not apply to our region. Basil- I know that the little guide planes would hunt bears but don't know if they are bait stations or not. William- don't know of anyone who hunts bears using vote.
25	Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide		
Oppose	0	6	Phillip Perry- clarified current regulation for taking brown bear. Stan- Currently is there anywhere that requires a harvest ticket for brown bears? Phillip- for most of rural and interior Alaska, residents don't have to have a harvest ticket. There are some places you have to apply for a permit- like Kodiak but that is an exception. Most of the state does not require a harvest ticket. Peter makes recommendation
31	Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts		
Oppose	0	6	Phillip Perry explained. Currently in Unit 18 there is only one drawing hunt for musk ox. William- Looking at this proposal, it doesn't seem like this would affect our region except for Nunivak.
41	Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag		
Support	6	0	David Runfola(ADF&G) explained Peter Tyson recommends that we support
43	Allow the taking of Emperor geese by proxy hunting		
Support	6	0	David Runfola explained. William- Don't get emperor geese in this area. In our area it is rare to see an emperor goose, we don't target this species. Basil- I am neutral on this because we hardly ever see the emperor geese. Think we should take no action. Peter- in support of our coastal relatives they recommend that we support this proposals.

MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2017

Teleconference, 2:00pm

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting

November 10 – 17, 2017 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
			Basil- if our coastal relatives would like us to support this, I will support this.
53	Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide		
			David Runfola explained.
Support	6	0	William- personally have a problem with customary trade and what exactly is customary trade and barter. Is it referring to migratory game birds? David Runfola explained.
55	Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches		
			David Runfola (ADF&G) explained. Want to include potlatch to be more inclusive. (Mildred was briefly excused).
Support	5	0	

Alaska Board of Game Central/Southwest Region Meeting

February 16 – 23, 2018 | Dillingham

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
157	Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18		
Support	5	0	Minimal discussion due to it being a yearly reauthorization.
163	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		
Support	5	0	Minimal discussion due to it being a yearly reauthorization.

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Recorded By: _____

is Approved By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: 10-08-17

Date: Nov 7, 17

YUKON RIVER PROPOSALS

MARCH 6-9, 2018

*BOF accepted these ACRs during the October 2017 Work Session

PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and specifications.

Allow the use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e) is amended to include paragraphs (4) and (5) to read:

(4) in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of the Yuki River,

(A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency order;

(B) from June 10 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets; and

(C) chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets after August 2.

(5) a person may not operate a drift gillnet that is more than 150 feet in length and more than 35 meshes in depth during the seasons and areas described in (4) of this subsection.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subsistence fishermen have noted the limited number and loss of fishing sites for stationary subsistence fishing gear in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. This has resulted in some Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C subsistence fishermen choosing to pay additional fuel costs to participate in the subsistence drift gillnet fishery in Subdistrict 4-A. Subsistence fishermen have reported an increasing number of fishermen fishing in Subdistrict 4-A and that there is increased competition for available drift sites. The loss of sites and additional competition in District 4 subsistence fishing sites resulted in the unforeseen consequence of inadequate opportunity for subsistence fishermen to harvest salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Louden, Nulato, and Koyukuk Tribes

YUKON RIVER PROPOSALS

MARCH 6-9, 2018

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal the prohibition on subsistence fishing in Yukon River Districts 1 and 2 during the first pulse of king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 05.360 is amended to read:

(J) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the department shall manage the king salmon subsistence fishery in Districts 1 – 6 during the first pulse of the historical three distinctive pulses of king salmon that enter the Yukon River drainage, as follows:

[(1) IN DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, TO ACCOUNT FOR THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE PRESEASON KING SALMON RUN PROJECTIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE KING SALMON SUBSISTENCE FISHERY CONSERVATIVELY AND NOT OPEN ANY SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIODS DURING THE FIRST PULSE OF KING SALMON ENTERING THE DISTRICTS;]

[(2) IN DISTRICTS 3-6.]

(1) if inseason run assessment information indicates insufficient abundance of king salmon to meet escapement objectives on specific components of the run and subsistence harvest needs, the department will not open any subsistence fishing periods during the first pulse implemented chronologically in the applicable district, consistent with migratory -timing as the king salmon run progresses upstream;

(2) if inseason run assessment information indicates sufficient abundance of king salmon to meet escapement objectives on specific components of the run and subsistence harvests needs, subsistence fishing will revert to the fishing periods as specified in (d) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The mandatory first pulse king salmon subsistence fishing closure in Yukon River Districts 1 and 2 is unnecessary and has resulted in the unintended consequence of causing a hardship to subsistence fishers when the Yukon River king salmon run is strong and fishing restrictions are not needed to meet escapement goals. The current regulation unnecessarily restricts the department and does not allow the department to meet the objective of the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kwik'pak Fisheries, LLC

YUKON RIVER PROPOSALS

MARCH 6-9, 2018

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow sale of Yukon River king salmon caught incidentally during open commercial fishing periods for other salmon species, as follows:

5 AAC 05.360 is amended to read:

(i) If the department projects that the Yukon River king salmon escapements are below the escapement goals or king salmon subsistence fishing is restricted in more than one district or portion of a district, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close a fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which king salmon may be retained, but not sold; **if the department thereafter projects that Yukon River king salmon escapements will achieve escapement goals and king salmon subsistence fishing is not restricted, and the department determines that there are king salmon surplus to escapement and subsistence needs and the sale of incidentally caught king salmon will not have a significant impact on escapement or subsistence uses of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a fishery during which incidentally caught king salmon taken during the summer and/or fall chum salmon commercial fisheries may be sold.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan* does not provide clear direction and criteria for lifting a prohibition on the sale of incidentally caught king salmon. Regulatory direction and triggers for prohibiting the sale of incidentally caught king salmon in Yukon River commercial salmon fisheries are well defined; however, regulatory direction and criteria for lifting a prohibition on the sale of incidentally caught king salmon that is no longer needed are ambiguous, resulting in potential foregone economic opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

YUKON RIVER PROPOSALS

MARCH 6-9, 2018

PROPOSAL 233

5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; 5 AAC 05.330. Gear; and 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.

Clarify the District 1 boundary and allow set gillnets to be operated up to three nautical miles seaward from any grassland bank in District 1 after July 15, as follows:

5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts

(a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon [RIVER DRAINAGE] Area from the latitude of Point Romanof extending south and west, **including the coastal waters within three miles seaward from any grassland bank,** along the coast of the delta to **the ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical mile south from the mouth** [THE TERMINUS] of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black River.

5 AAC 05.330. Gear

(a) In Districts 1 – 3, set gillnets and drift gillnets only may be operated, except that in District 1 after July 15 set gillnets only may be operated in the following locations:

(8) waters within [ONE] **three** nautical [MILE] **miles** seaward from any grassland bank in District 1.

5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters

(2) waters farther than three nautical miles seaward from any grassland bank in District 1 from [APOON PASS] **Point Romanof** extending west and south to a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical mile south from the mouth of Black River;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This seeks guidance and clarification from the Board of Fisheries on intent regarding the set gillnet fishery in coastal waters of Yukon Area District 1 and the new drift gillnet fishery in expanded coastal waters of District 1. The intent of the original proposals that lead to creation of this new fishery was to maintain the set gillnet fishery in coastal waters of District 1, not to create a new drift gillnet fishery in expanded coastal waters, and it is unclear if the board was aware of this unforeseen effect/error when the regulation was adopted.

PROPOSED BY: Kwik'pak Fisheries, LLC

**Boards Support Section
Board of Fisheries**
Glenn Haight, Executive Director
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

CALL FOR PROPOSALS Alaska Board of Fisheries

**THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES CALLS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES
IN THE SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, GUIDED SPORT, AND COMMERCIAL
FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH, ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH, ALASKA
PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH AREAS, and
STATEWIDE FINFISH AREAS.**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE – TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands-Chignik, and Statewide finfish management areas. Finfish includes salmon, herring, trout, other freshwater finfishes, and groundfish, including Pacific cod, for consideration by the board in its 2018-19 meeting cycle. The board may also consider subsistence proposals for other topics (including other areas) under the subsistence proposal policy, 5 AAC 96.615, if proposals are submitted within this deadline and the board determines they meet the criteria in either 5 AAC 96.615(a)(1) or (2).

To ensure the proposal book is finished in advance of the board meetings, the board sets Tuesday, April 10, 2018, as the proposal deadline.

Proposals may be submitted online, email, mail or fax at:

Online: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms>

Email: dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov (Adobe PDF documents only)

Mail: ADF&G, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: (907) 465-6094

Proposals must be received by Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date. The Board of Fisheries proposal form, including the on-line proposal form, is available at the Boards Support website, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms>. Proposal forms are also available at any Boards Support office. Proposals must be submitted on the current approved form. Any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book.

The completed proposal form must contain a contact telephone number and address. Email addresses are appreciated. Please print or type the individual's or organization's name as appropriate.

All proposals are reviewed prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal and may draw opposition not germane to the element(s) of the proposal. Such language may be edited or deleted prior to publication. **Proposals that do not meet the call will not be accepted.** Proposals must pertain to the region, species, and uses in this call. If duplicative proposals are received by the same individual or group only one will be included in the proposal book.

Proposals published in the proposal book will be referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and include a brief description of the action requested.

Proposal books are sent to advisory committees and the public for review and comment. Proposals are online at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.proposalbook>. Those submitting proposals are encouraged to review the proposal book at their earliest convenience to ensure proposals are included and accurate. Noted errors and omissions should be reported to Boards Support immediately. The public is encouraged to visit the Board of Fisheries website frequently for news and information regarding the upcoming cycle.

Responsive proposals received by the proposal deadline will be considered by the Board of Fisheries during the October 2018 through March 2019 meeting schedule.

For more information, please contact the Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director, (907) 465-4110.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PROPOSAL FORM

(Revised 10/12/13)

Top of form check boxes:

- As appropriate, insert information about the fish or game management unit your regulation would change.
- Depending on the venue in which the regulation change will be heard, check the appropriate box(es) for the activities the regulation change would affect.

[Alaska Legislature Infobase, 5AAC.](#)

Fillable numbered boxes:

1. If known, enter the series of letter and numbers which identify the regulation to be changed. For example, 5 AAC 72.055. If it will be a new section or provision, then enter 5 AAC 72.XXX.
2. Write a short explanation about the issue your proposal addresses, or why you are proposing the regulation change. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject proposals that contain multiple or confusing issues.

State why the regulation change should be adopted or provide an explanation about what will happen if the regulation is not changed.

To assist you in development of your issue statement (#2 on the form), you may want to consider the following:

- What would happen if nothing is changed?
 - What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?
3. Print or type your proposal as you would like to see it appear in the regulation book. The boards prefer that revised regulatory language is provided. **New or amended text should appear first and be in bold text and underlined.** [REGULATORY TEXT BEING DELETED SHOULD BE FULLY CAPITALIZED AND ENCLOSED IN BRACKETS]. It is not necessary to bold and underline text if entire change contains new language.

EXAMPLES: **5 AAC 27.810. Fishing seasons and periods.**

In the Togiak and Bay districts, herring may
be taken by purse seines and hand purse
seines from April 25 through **July 15** [JUNE 1]

5 AAC 85.025(3). Unit 9(B) Caribou.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: **2** [3] caribou; however,
no more than 1 bull may be taken.

Alternatively, you may state your changes in clear sentences. For example, “Extend the season to July 15 in the Togiak and Bay districts,” or “Reduce the bag limit for caribou in Unit 9(B) to two caribou.”

Bottom of form (submission block):

- Write the name of the group that voted to submit the proposal or your name if you are submitting the proposal. This name will be published in the proposal book. The boards of Fisheries and Game will not consider anonymous proposals.
- Fill in your address and zip code, and telephone number. These will NOT be published; it simply enables us to reach you if clarification is necessary.

Mail or fax the completed form to the address at the top of the form.

Alaska Board of Fisheries/Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

NOTE: Proposals must be received by the deadline in the call for proposals; there are no exceptions. A fax is considered an original. The form must be physically received by fax or mail; postmark is not adequate.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please consult staff at any Fish and Game office.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM 2018-2019
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526**

**Indicates a required field*

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS			
☐ Subsistence	☐ Personal Use	☐ Sport	☐ Commercial
*Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?			
☐ Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island-Chignik Finfish	☐ Statewide Provisions for Finfish		
☐ Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas Finfish	☐ Bristol Bay Area Finfish		
Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.			
1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC _____			
*2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?			
*3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)			

***Submitted By:** _____
Individual or Group

***Address** ***City, State** ***ZIP Code**

Home Phone ***Work Phone** ***Email**

2017 PRELIMINARY YUKON RIVER SUMMER SEASON SUMMARY

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
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Anchorage, Alaska 99518
Date Issued: 10/6/2017

2017 Preliminary Yukon River Summer Season Summary

The following is a summary of the 2017 Yukon River Chinook and summer chum salmon fisheries. All data reported here are considered preliminary. For management purposes, the Yukon River is divided into several fishing districts and subdistricts (Figure 1).

During the “summer season” (early May until July 16 in District 1) management and research staff are based in the Emmonak office and the focus is on assessing and managing the summer chum and Chinook salmon runs. After July 16, in Emmonak, Chinook salmon are nearly done entering the river and fall chum start to replace summer chum as the dominant species. At that time management transitions to the “fall season” and assessment and management become focused on fall chum and coho salmon. Data presented in this summary applies to “summer season” species only.

2017 Management Outreach

The summer season management team consists of ADF&G staff: Area management biologist, assistant area management biologist, Area research and assistant area research biologists, and the manager and assistant manager from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This season, staff from ADF&G’s Subsistence Division joined the management team. The team met preseason to form the management strategy based on public input, and met daily inseason to discuss the summer chum and Chinook salmon assessment and escapement data, and subsistence and commercial fishery openings. In an effort to improve outreach with communities, the area manager and subsistence division staff visited select villages including Grayling, Nulato, Beaver, and Fort Yukon during the fishing season.

In addition to these visits, the Area manager, the ADF&G commissioner and other staff attended a three day charter-tour of many Yukon and Koyukuk River communities funded by Tanana Chiefs Conference. The trip was important for ADF&G staff to hear directly from fishermen about Chinook salmon management and how it affects their lives uniquely in each village. The hosting communities were: Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Galena, and Ruby.

In an effort to more effectively reach fishermen, ADF&G launched a Facebook page called “Yukon River Fishing-ADFG”. Daily test fish counts and news releases were posted here, including subsistence and commercial fishing schedules for each district.

2017 Preseason Outlook

Chinook Salmon

The Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks have experienced a drastic decline in production since 1998 (Figure 2), reaching an all-time low in 2013. The cause of this decline remains largely unknown, though it is generally believed that many factors (e.g., freshwater survival, marine conditions, climate change) are involved. Preseason run forecasts have had variable accuracy over the years, particularly in years with low returns or changing productivity. However, since 2014 the forecast models have been performing better as an indicator of potential run sizes. The 2017 drainage-wide Chinook salmon outlook was for a run size of 140,000 to 195,000 fish. Though a run of this size should be large enough to meet escapement objectives, the surplus available for harvest could vary. Due to the uncertainty associated with the outlook, a cautious management approach was taken to ensure minimum escapement objectives would be met.

Summer Chum Salmon

Yukon River summer chum salmon generally exhibit strong run size correlations among adjacent years and it was expected that the 2017 total run would be similar or better than the 2016 run. The 2017 preseason outlook was for approximately 2.4 million summer chum salmon. A run of this size was anticipated to provide for escapements, a normal subsistence harvest, and a surplus for commercial harvest. Summer chum salmon runs have provided for a harvestable surplus in each of the last 10 years (2007–2016). Based on the preseason outlook, it was expected that a commercially harvestable surplus of up to 1.5 million summer chum salmon would be available. Similar to last year, the harvest of summer chum salmon in 2017 was anticipated to be affected by the management of a below average Chinook salmon run. Because Chinook salmon are incidentally harvested in summer chum salmon-directed fisheries, the use of gillnets for the summer chum commercial fishery was delayed and restricted. It was anticipated that gear types that allow for the live release of Chinook salmon, such as beach seines, dip nets, and live-release fish wheels, would be employed for both the subsistence and commercial harvest of summer chum salmon in the early part of the season.

2017 Preseason Management Strategy

In response to below-average Chinook salmon runs, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) facilitated a preseason planning meeting funded by the Yukon River Panel to provide managers, fishermen, tribal council representatives, and other stakeholders the opportunity to share information, provide input, and discuss management options available for the 2017 salmon fisheries. The purpose of this meeting was to cooperatively identify practical management strategies that would assist in getting adequate numbers of Chinook salmon to their spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada while also providing limited subsistence harvest opportunity.

Fishermen from all districts gave feedback about the previous year’s management actions and suggested improvements for 2017. These improvements included: offering dip net opportunity for subsistence harvest of summer chum salmon instead of a complete salmon fishing closure early in the season; less short, or “surgical”, openings; more fishing on a schedule preferred; and

better notice of the fishing schedules. These suggestions were implemented during the 2017 season.

Based on input from this meeting, a conservative preseason management plan was developed for the Yukon River summer season fishery. The preseason plan and publicly-distributed “Outlook Flier” included the following key management strategies:

- Before Chinook salmon enter the river, subsistence fishing will be open 24 hours a day 7 days a week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.
- As early Chinook salmon enter each district, subsistence salmon fishing will be provided on a reduced regulatory schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.
- By regulation, fishing will close just before the first pulse of Chinook salmon enters each area.
- One day after salmon fishing with gillnets closes (just before first pulse is present), subsistence opportunity will begin with selective gear to target summer chum salmon. This opportunity will be offered up through Subdistrict 5-C based on migration timing. Selective gear includes dip nets, beach seines, and manned fish wheels and requires the immediate release of all Chinook salmon alive.
- During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fishing is allowed with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 60-feet in length.
- When confidence is high that the Chinook salmon run is adequate and escapement goals are likely to be met, the use of 6-inch gillnets on a reduced regulatory schedule will be considered, as well as short openings with 7.5-inch gillnets.
- Commercial fishing for summer chum will begin with selective gear, based on inseason run assessment.
- The sport fishery for Chinook salmon will begin the season closed throughout the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage, excluding the Tanana River drainage.

2017 Stock Assessment Overview

The department monitors a suite of assessment projects that provide critical information regarding salmon run timing, relative abundance, and stock composition. Inseason run assessments included test fisheries, sonar passage estimates, subsistence and commercial harvest reports, and age, sex, and length (ASL) data. In addition, tissue samples were collected from Chinook and summer chum salmon at the sonar project near Pilot Station to determine stock contribution. Assessment of the salmon runs in the lower river is critical to implementing an inseason management plan throughout the drainage. However, managers use information from all inseason assessment projects and fishermen reports in order to make daily management decisions and adjustments to fishing schedules based on the best currently available data and projections.

Ice break-up at the mouth of the Yukon River (near Alakanuk) occurred on May 14, which was nearly one week earlier than the average break up date of May 20 (based on the years 1997–2016). The first summer chum of the year was caught in the subsistence fishery on May 21, nearly two weeks earlier than the average date of June 2 (based on the years 1997–2016). The first Chinook salmon was harvested on May 26 in the subsistence fishery, four days earlier than the average date of May 30 (based on the years 1997–2016). The department relied on subsistence harvest reports to guide initial management actions during the early portion of the salmon runs.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) program is primarily designed to assess salmon run timing and consists of two Chinook salmon test fisheries. An 8.5-inch mesh set gillnet operated in the Middle and South mouths of the Yukon River and an 8.25-inch mesh drift gillnet operated at Big Eddy in the south mouth, near Emmonak. The LYTF also has a summer chum salmon-directed drift gillnet test fishery using 5.5-inch mesh gear operated in the Middle and South mouths. These test fisheries provide relative catch data and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) which gives an index of abundance and indicates the presence of large groups of fish or “pulses” entering the mouths of the river.

The LYTF was operational at the South Mouth drift gillnet site on May 25 and at the Middle Mouth site on June 6. The first Chinook salmon caught in the test fishery was on May 31. The Big Eddy set net site was fished until June 28. The LYTF set gillnets concluded operations on July 13 with a cumulative CPUE of 38.58, which was above the historical¹ average CPUE of 29.6 for years with early run timing. The first quarter point, midpoint, and third quarter point were June 13, June 20, and June 26, respectively. The 8.25-inch drift gillnet project for Chinook salmon operated in Big Eddy until July 15 and provided valuable supplemental run timing information for Chinook salmon entering the South Mouth of the Yukon River. This season, 797 Chinook salmon were released alive from the LYTF and 939 Chinook were distributed to locals in mostly lower Yukon communities, with emphasis given to elders and people who are unable to fish. This fish donation program was coordinated with village tribal councils and with the assistance of Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.

During the summer season, the mainstem sonar project near Pilot Station provides abundance estimates for Chinook and summer chum salmon. The test fishery at the sonar project is used to apportion the daily sonar counts by species, and is also used to sample the salmon runs for ASL and genetic data. The department has endeavored to reduce Chinook salmon mortality in test fisheries by releasing all Chinook salmon deemed healthy alive immediately. Any Chinook salmon mortalities were delivered to Tribal Councils in various nearby communities for distribution to elders.

The cumulative passage estimate at the sonar project located near Pilot Station was approximately 263,000 Chinook salmon (with a 90% confidence interval of 234,000 to 292,000 Chinook salmon). This passage was well above the recent historical average² of approximately 178,000 fish. Chinook salmon entered the river in four pulses consisting of 20,800 fish; 79,900 fish; 69,400 fish; and 55,200 fish. Inseason run analysis was focused on making comparisons to years with similar early run timing. The first quarter point, midpoint, and third quarter point for the sonar project near Pilot Station were on June 17, June 21, and June 28, respectively. The 2017 Chinook salmon run appears to have been three days earlier than average based on the midpoint at the sonar project near Pilot Station.

Tissue samples were taken from the majority of Chinook salmon caught in the test fishery at the sonar project located near Pilot Station and analyzed in three strata for genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA). The three strata periods were May 31–June 13 (number sampled (n) = 101), June 14–June 20 (n=181), and June 21–July 25 (n=116). Genetic MSA indicated the Canadian-

¹ Includes early run timing years only: 1993, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004, 2014, and 2016.

² Average includes years 1995, 1997, 2000, 2002–2008, and 2010–2016. The sonar did not operate in 1996 and project difficulties occurred in 2000, 2001, and 2009.

origin stock proportion of each stratum to be 43%, 49%, and 43% for the first, second, and third stratum, respectively. For more background information on genetic MSA for Yukon River Chinook salmon, please refer to the department's Gene Conservation Laboratory webpage³.

At Pilot Station sonar approximately 3.1 million summer chum salmon were counted (with 90% confidence interval of approximately 2.9 million to 3.2 million salmon), which was above the historical median of 1.9 million fish for the project. The first quarter point, midpoint, and third quarter point were June 19, June 23, and June 29, respectively, which is consistent with historical early run timing. Three large pulses of summer chum salmon were detected at the sonar project with the largest group consisting of approximately 957,800 fish, which passed by the sonar between June 21 and June 25.

2017 Subsistence Fishery Overview

In accordance with discussions at the fishermen's pre-season planning meeting, managers expected to provide limited subsistence harvest opportunity for Chinook salmon while providing liberal subsistence and commercial opportunity for summer chum salmon. If managers were confident that the Chinook run strength was in the mid to upper range of the outlook, more subsistence opportunity would be provided with gear to target Chinook salmon.

The use of 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length was allowed for the harvest of non-salmon species, such as sheefish, whitefish species, and Northern pike. This opportunity to harvest non-salmon species was allowed at all times during subsistence salmon fishing closures throughout the season, in all districts.

Lower River Subsistence Fishery Management

In previous years, gillnets were restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh immediately following ice-out. However, in 2016 and 2017, managers waited for increased Chinook salmon catches at the LYTF assessment project before restricting the subsistence gillnet fishery in order to provide opportunity to target sheefish and other species.

In 2017, the North Coastal area was managed as part of District 1, so all actions affecting District 1 applied to the North Coastal area as well. The South Coastal area (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62 degrees North latitude including the communities of Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay) was managed separately. South Coastal fishermen were restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets from May 31 until June 18, when the mesh size restriction was removed.

On June 1, Chinook salmon were detected in the river, but in relatively small numbers. These fish were considered the early part of the run, and in District 1 fishing with gillnets was restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh and fishermen were placed on the regulatory schedule of two 36-hour periods per week. Districts 2 and 3 were placed on the same restrictions and regulatory schedule effective June 4 and June 7, respectively.

Beginning June 11, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets closed and reverted to fishing with selective gear in anticipation of the first pulse passing thru in Districts 1 (including the North Coastal area), 2, and 3. Fishing was open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with dip nets and beach seines only. Both dip nets and beach seines require the live release of Chinook salmon. Although the use of selective gear was initiated early in the season prior to the arrival of large

³ http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishinggeneconservationlab.yukonchinook_baseline

groups of summer chum salmon, the intent was to give fishermen ample time to prepare without issuing short-notice news releases once summer chum salmon were present.

On June 18, a short 12-hour period of gillnet fishing with 7.5-inch gillnets or smaller was opened in Districts 1 (including the North Coastal area) and 2, and a 24-hour opportunity was provided in District 3 on June 20. The management strategy was to provide some Chinook-directed opportunity in the lower river at a time when high abundance of summer chum salmon make it hard for fishermen in the lower river to catch Chinook salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh nets.

By June 21 (the midpoint of the Chinook run at Pilot Station), all districts up through 4-A Lower were relaxed to 7.5-inch gillnets and placed on regulatory schedule, except for Districts 1 and 2, which were given 10 hours per day of subsistence-only fishing to provide opportunity around commercial fishing openings and closures which varied throughout the season.

Upper River Subsistence Fishery Management

Similar to management actions taken in the lower river, subsistence salmon fishing was restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets on June 11 in Subdistrict 4-A and reverted to selective gear types on June 14 in Subdistrict 4-A Lower and on June 17 in Subdistrict 4-A Upper. These selective gear types required the live-release of Chinook salmon. Selective gear types were discontinued and subsistence salmon fishing with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets was allowed on the regulatory schedule in Subdistrict 4-A Lower on June 21 and 4-A Upper on June 25. Fishermen in subdistricts 4-B and 4-C could use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels from the start of the season until June 19 when fishing reverted to selective gear only for a six day period to protect the first pulse of Chinook as it passed through these Subdistricts. By June 25, fishing was allowed on regulatory schedule with no mesh restrictions, as confidence in the strength of the run was high.

Similarly, in subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C, fishermen could use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels from the start of the season until June 23 when fishing reverted to selective gear only for a four day period to protect the part of the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passed through these Subdistricts. By June 27, fishing was allowed on regulatory schedule with no mesh restrictions, as confidence in the strength of the run was high.

Due to the strength of the Chinook salmon run, no subsistence closures or gear restrictions were enacted in Subdistrict 5-D. Early fish were predicted to arrive in the lower portion of Subdistrict 5-D by June 21. This date coincided with the mid-point of the run at the sonar project near Pilot Station with an estimated cumulative passage of 134,702 Chinook salmon.

By regulation, the Koyukuk and Innoko rivers remained open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels to harvest salmon. Similarly, in the Tanana River (Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C), subsistence salmon fishing remained on its regulatory schedule for the entirety of the Chinook salmon season and mesh size was not restricted.

The 2017 Chinook salmon run was conservatively managed in the early part of the season when run assessment had higher uncertainty; however, restrictions were relaxed or removed once run projections at the sonar project near Pilot Station coincided with the upper end of the preseason forecast, and the predicted total run estimate at the project was projected to be the highest since 2003. Therefore, fishing restrictions were relaxed in the upper river districts, as certainty in the run abundance was better by the time Chinook were reaching Districts 4 and 5. The final

cumulative passage at the sonar projects near Pilot Station and Eagle indicated that the total run size was at or above the upper end of the preseason projection range. The management strategy in 2017 was to provide more Chinook-directed subsistence fishing opportunity, possibly earlier in the run, while using regulatory schedule when possible to avoid short openings. Over the last several years, Yukon River fishermen have exhibited incredible flexibility in complying with schedule changes and gear restrictions. The department acknowledges the continued commitment made by Yukon River fishermen to conserve the Chinook salmon resource for future generations and relies heavily on input from fishermen post-season about how management strategies worked and didn't work for their area.

The 2017 preliminary subsistence harvest estimates will not be available until later this winter. Based on inseason harvest reports that many fishermen were able to meet their needs for Chinook and summer chum salmon, it is likely that the 2017 Chinook salmon subsistence harvest will be much higher than what was observed in 2016, which was approximately 21,000 Chinook.

2017 Commercial Fishery

Lower Yukon Districts Commercial Fishery

With the forecasted large run of summer chum and the return of a buyer to District 4, liberal commercial fishing opportunity was provided for summer chum salmon in Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6. However, there was a considerable reduction in buyer capacity in District 2. Only one buyer operated in that district for most of the summer season and tendering capacity and ice production were limited to Mountain Village. This reduction of buying capacity meant that far fewer commercial periods were scheduled in District 2. A second, smaller-scale buyer began operating out of St. Mary's during the fall season. These reductions in opportunity likely created economic hardship on fishermen in District 2. There was a marked increase in number of fishing permits harvesting salmon in District 1 over previous years which may be partially due to fishermen shifting their effort from District 2 to District 1.

Since Chinook salmon are encountered incidentally in the commercial summer chum salmon fishery, a suite of strategies was used to conservatively manage the fishery in order to minimize the impact to the Chinook salmon run. In Districts 1 and 2, dip nets and beach seines were used, and in District 4, manned fish wheels were used. Chinook salmon are required to be released alive from these selective gear types. Once commercial fishing was allowed with gillnets, all Chinook salmon could be released alive, or kept for subsistence use.

For the tenth consecutive year, no commercial periods targeting Chinook salmon were allowed in the Yukon or Tanana Rivers during the summer season. Sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon was prohibited for the seventh consecutive year in the summer season. However, on July 17, during the first fall season commercial opening, when 99% of the Chinook salmon run had passed, the department allowed the sale of 168 incidentally-caught Chinook salmon. While this represented a fraction of the number of Chinook already retained by commercial fishermen for subsistence use, much concern and confusion regarding that decision was heard from the public, on both the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association teleconference, and in person at meetings in many Yukon villages attended by the area manager and other high level ADF&G staff including the commissioner. The department decided to reverse its decision to allow the sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon until guidance from the Board of Fisheries could be sought regarding the regulations on Chinook sales.

Selective fishing for summer chum salmon using dip nets and beach seines began June 10 in District 1. The first commercial fishing period in District 2 was provided on June 21. For details about the number of openings see Appendix A. Approximately 316 permit holders fished these selective commercial openings but only 4% of the fishermen used beach seines, the majority used dip net gear. The combined harvest in Districts 1 and 2 with selective gear types was 135,043 summer chum salmon with 4,618 Chinook salmon reported released alive.

The use of gillnets in the summer chum commercial fishery was delayed until after the midpoint of the Chinook run and the passage estimate at Pilot Station sonar was around 166,000 fish. In District 1, commercial opportunity with 5.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 30 meshes in depth was provided beginning June 23 in order to reduce the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Gillnet opportunity with 6-inch or smaller mesh was provided beginning July 1 in District 1 (Appendix A). The 5.5-inch gillnet gear restriction was not applied in District 2 since most fishermen do not have that gear type. Commercial fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets began July 11 in District 2. Fishermen were required to report any Chinook salmon caught but not sold on fish tickets. An estimated 5,589 Chinook salmon were kept for personal use in Districts 1 and 2 during the summer season commercial gillnet fishery.

The cumulative summer chum salmon commercial harvest for Districts 1 and 2 for all gear types combined was 393,165 fish (Appendices A and B). No pink salmon or coho salmon were sold during the summer season. The summer chum salmon harvest was 4% above the 2012–2016 average harvest of 378,054 fish (Appendix B).

Upper Yukon Districts Commercial Fishery

Commercial fishing occurred in District 4 due to the presence of a buyer. Fishing opened in District 4 on June 25, with 34 periods offered through July 31 with live-release fish wheels. Fishermen were required to continuously monitor fish wheels and immediately release any Chinook salmon alive. The District 4 summer chum salmon harvest of 157,831 fish was the largest harvest since 1996. Less than 50 Chinook salmon were encountered and released alive in District 4; this is because migrating Chinook are not typically found on the same bank that the summer chum are migrating along in this area of the river, so they are not frequently caught in the commercial fish wheels.

The department scheduled the first summer chum salmon-directed commercial fishing period in District 6 on July 14 (Appendix A). By this time, nearly 260,000 Chinook salmon and over 3 million summer chum salmon had been counted at the Pilot Station Sonar, indicating a strong run for both species. Therefore, gear restrictions were not implemented during the commercial fishery; fishermen could use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels. Chinook salmon could not be sold but could be retained for subsistence use. The department scheduled eight commercial fishing periods. The preliminary cumulative harvest was 4,300 summer chum salmon and 185 Chinook kept for personal use (Appendix A). The 2017 District 6 commercial harvest was 14% below the recent five-year average of 5,029 summer chum salmon (Appendix B).

The total 2017 commercial harvest for the entire Yukon Area was 555,296 summer chum salmon, which was 25% above the 2012–2016 average harvest of 444,105 fish (Appendix B). The total 2017 summer chum harvest was the largest on record since 1996.

2017 Fishing Effort and Exvessel Value

A total of 401 permit holders participated in the summer chum salmon commercial fishery, approximately 9% below the 2007–2016 average of 440 permit holders. The Lower Yukon Area (Districts 1–3) and Upper Yukon Area (Districts 4–6) are separate Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit areas. A total of 388 permit holders fished in the Lower Yukon Area in 2017, which is below the 2007–2017 average of 430 permits. In the Upper Yukon Area, at least 13 permit holders fished, which was above the 2007–2016 average of 11.

Lower Yukon Area fishermen received an average \$0.60 per pound for summer chum salmon and estimated \$1.47 million for their summer chum harvest in 2017 (Appendix C). The estimated average income for Lower Yukon Area fishermen in the 2017 summer season was \$3,790 per fisherman, which was above the recent 10-year average (2007–2016) income of \$3,019 per fishermen from commercial sales. This does not include value from Chinook salmon sold in the fall season. Upper Yukon Area fishermen received an average of \$0.34 per pound for summer chum salmon for a total exvessel value of \$274,608. The estimated average income for upper Yukon Area fishermen in the 2017 summer season was \$21,124, which was above the recent 10-year average (2007–2016) income of \$6,893 per fisherman.

In the 2017 fall season, the sale of Chinook salmon was allowed for one period, during which 1,804 pounds were sold at an average price of \$5.50 per pound for a total of \$9,922. The average weight of the Chinook salmon that were sold was 10.7 pounds. This harvest is considered part of the fall season harvest.

2017 Age, Sex and Stock Composition

Age and Sex Composition in LYTF

The Chinook salmon age composition from the 8.5-inch mesh LYTF set nets (Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites combined) was 0% age-3, 4% age-4, 43% age-5, 51% age-6, and 2% age-7 fish. The sample size was 748 fish and females comprised 51% of the samples. The age-5 percentage was above average; the age-6 and age-7 percentages were below average; and females were near average based on the years 2007–2016. It is important to note that catch in the large mesh used at LYTF is likely biased toward older, larger fish.

The summer chum salmon age composition from the 5.5-inch mesh LYTF drift nets was less than 1% age-3, 51% age-4, 47% age-5, and 2% age-6 fish. The sample size was 982 fish and females comprised 60% of the samples. All age classes and percent females were near average.

Age and Sex Composition in Pilot Station Sonar test fishery

The Chinook salmon age composition from the 547 samples that were aged from the test fishery at the Pilot station sonar project (all mesh sizes combined) was less than 1% age-3, 9% age-4, 53% age-5, 36% age-6, and 2% age-7 fish. Females comprised 51% of the 613 fish sampled. The age-3, age-4, and age-6 percentages were near average; age-5 and age-7 percentages were above average; and females were above average based on the years 2007–2016. It is important to note that while the project uses a wide range of mesh sizes and likely captures a representative sample across sizes and age classes, the sex is determined visually, and this method has reduced accuracy compared to internal inspection.

Stock identification in Pilot Station test fishery

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the first strata of Chinook salmon, which included early fish and the first pulse of Chinook salmon sampled at the Pilot Station sonar (May 31 to June

13), estimated 43% of the sampled fish were of Canadian-origin. Genetic MSA on the second strata, which included all of the second pulse of Chinook salmon (June 14–20), estimated 43% of the sampled fish were of Canadian-origin. Genetic MSA on the third strata (third pulse) of Chinook salmon (June 21–25) estimated 43% of the sampled fish were of Canadian-origin. Final MSA information will be available post season.

Four strata of chum salmon genetic samples were processed from the 2017 summer season. The strata from May 31–June 19 consisted of 99% summer chum salmon; 73% of which were lower river stocks, 23% were bound for the middle river; and about 4% were bound for the Tanana River. The strata from June 20–June 26 also consisted of 99% summer chum salmon; 91% lower river stocks, 5% were bound for the middle river; and about 4% were bound for the Tanana River. The strata from June 27–July 9 consisted of 96% summer chum salmon; 69% were lower stocks, 22% were middle river stocks; and 5% were Tanana River stocks. The strata from July 10–18 consisted of 98% summer chum salmon; 71% were lower stocks, 18% were middle river stocks; and 10% were Tanana River stocks.

Age and Sex Composition in Eagle Sonar test fishery

The Chinook salmon age composition from the 271 samples that were aged from the test fishery at the Eagle sonar project (all mesh sizes combined) was 0% age-3, 2% age-4, 48% age-5, 49% age-6, and 1% age-7 fish. This is only a partial season age composition of data collected through July 20 and remaining samples are being processed. Females comprised 45% of the 300 fish sampled. All ages and percent female are near the 2007–2016 averages but samples to date only account for the front portion of the run. It is important to note that while the project has used a consistent suite of mesh sizes, the smallest mesh used is 5.25-inch, so the smallest fish may be underrepresented in the samples. Furthermore, the sex is determined visually, and this method has reduced accuracy compared to internal inspection.

Age and Sex Composition in Subsistence Harvest

ASL and genetic samples were taken by subsistence fishermen in Districts 1 through 5 to estimate the age and genetic composition from Chinook salmon kept for subsistence. These data were collected as part of a Yukon River Panel's Restoration and Enhancement fund project. These data are especially important since fishing practices (e.g., timing of harvest, gear types used) have changed in recent years due to conservation concerns and fishing restrictions. Subsistence and personal use harvest numbers for 2017 are not available at this time. Results from this project will be available later in the year.

Age and Sex Composition in Commercial Harvest

The summer chum salmon age composition from the District 1 dip net commercial fishery was less than 1% age-3, 52% age-4, 48% age-5, and less than 1% age-6 fish. The sample size was 445 fish and females comprised 41% of the harvest. The summer chum salmon age composition from the District 1 gillnet commercial fishery was 0% age-3, 72% age-4, 27% age-5, and 1% age-6 fish. The sample size was 601 fish and females comprised 49% of the harvest. No summer chum commercial samples were collected from Districts 2, 4 or 6.

2017 Escapement

Chinook Salmon Escapement

In 2017, most systems with Chinook salmon escapement goals were met or exceeded (Table 1). Tower counts for Chinook salmon were hampered by high water conditions in the Chena and Salcha rivers. The goal on the Salcha River was met. The goal for the Chena River was not met inseason; however, once passage estimates are expanded to account for missed days using sonar counts, it is likely the Chena goal will be met. Sonar estimates of passage at Chena and Salcha rivers will not be available until later this winter.

Preliminary Chinook salmon passage at the border sonar project near Eagle was 73,268 fish. This is not considered a true escapement estimate as it does not account for harvest between Eagle and the border in Alaska or Canadian harvests. This passage exceeded the Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) of 42,500–55,000 salmon. This passage also provided for the additional 20–26% of the estimated total allowable catch needed for the Canadian harvest share as agreed to in the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty.

Although there are no escapement goals on the Gisasa and Henshaw rivers, Chinook salmon passage is monitored there and passage to both of these tributaries of the Koyukuk were below average in 2017.

Table 1.—Escapement goals and passage estimates for Chinook salmon at selected Yukon River tributaries, 2017. Estimates are preliminary.

Project	Current Goal	Type of Goal	2017 Escapement
Eagle Sonar	42,500–55,000	IMEG	73,268 *
East Fork Andreafsky Weir	2,100–4,900	SEG	2,970
Chena River Tower	2,800–5,700	BEG	1,785 ^a
Salcha River Tower	3,300–6,500	BEG	3,534 ^a
Anvik River Aerial survey	1,100–1,700	SEG	1,101 ^b
West Fork Andreafsky Aerial	640–1600	SEG	942
Nulato River Aerial survey	940–1,900	SEG	943
Stream	Historical Average	Years Included	2017 Escapement
Gisasa River Weir	2,203	1995–2016 ^c	1,083
Henshaw Creek Weir	1,175	2001–2016 ^d	677

*Note: The passage estimate at Eagle Sonar is not an escapement estimate. There is some harvest that occurs between the project and the border, and harvest that occurs in Canada, but it is assumed that the Eagle Sonar passage likely met the goal and provided for harvest share objectives laid out in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

^a Partial tower count. Project was hindered by unfavorable water conditions. Full sonar passage estimates will not be available until late 2017.

^b Partial estimate due to poor visibility in parts of the index area.

^c Excludes the years 2001 and 2014.

^d Excludes the years 2003, 2006, and 2014.

Summer Chum Salmon Escapement

Three escapement goals exist for summer chum salmon: a drainage-wide goal of 500,000–1,200,000 fish (established in 2016) and goals at the East Fork Andreafsky River and the Anvik River (Table 2). The drainage-wide escapement goal was exceeded and the goals on the East Fork Andreafsky and Anvik rivers were met. The summer chum salmon tower counts were considered incomplete for the Chena and Salcha rivers for most of the 2017 season due to

unfavorable water conditions, yet summer chum passage was still considered above average (Table 2). Estimates derived from sonar counts will be provided at a later date.

Table 2.—Escapement goals and passage estimates for summer chum salmon at selected Yukon River tributaries, 2017. Estimates are preliminary.

Stream	Current Goal	Type of Goal	2017 Escapement
Drainage-wide	500,000–1,200,000		3,093,735 ^a
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir	> 40,000	SEG	55,532
Anvik River Sonar	350,000–750,000	BEG	415,136
Stream	Historical Median	Years Included	2017 Escapement
Gisasa River Weir	44,502	1995–2016 ^b	73,584
Henshaw Creek Weir	156,933	2001–2016 ^c	360,068
Chena River Tower	8,620	1993–2015 ^d	15,384 ^f
Salcha River Tower	26,485	1993–2015 ^e	24,671 ^f

^a Estimate of abundance at the Pilot Station sonar. Though some estimated subsistence and commercial harvest occurred above the project it is assumed the upper end of the goal was exceeded.

^b Excludes the years 2001, and 2014.

^c Excludes the years 2003, 2006, and 2014.

^d Excludes 1995, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2011, and 2016.

^e Excludes 1996, 2003, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2016.

^f Project was hindered by unfavorable water conditions. These are partial tower counts, full passage estimates will not be available until late 2017.

Canadian Fisheries

The preseason outlook was for a run size of approximately 70,000 to 97,000 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. Fishery Managers at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) conduct Canadian Chinook salmon fisheries based on available abundance and international harvest sharing provisions. Based on the border passage of approximately 73,000 Chinook salmon and a Canadian Management target of 48,750 fish, the Chinook salmon run was classified to be in the “green management zone”. While the “green management zone” allows for an unrestricted First Nation fishery and considers some opportunity for commercial, recreational, and domestic fisheries, a conservative approach was followed in light of recent concerns over productivity, quality of escapement, and recent poor returns of Chinook salmon to the Yukon River. DFO, in consultation with the Yukon Salmon Sub-committee and First Nation Governments, maintained closures in the commercial, domestic, and recreational fisheries throughout the 2017 Chinook salmon run. A full First Nation subsistence harvest was available; however, harvest opportunities were at the discretion of individual First Nation governments. While not all information is currently available, preliminary data indicates that First Nation harvest on the mainstem Yukon River and Porcupine Rivers is likely to be near or less than 50% of historical average.

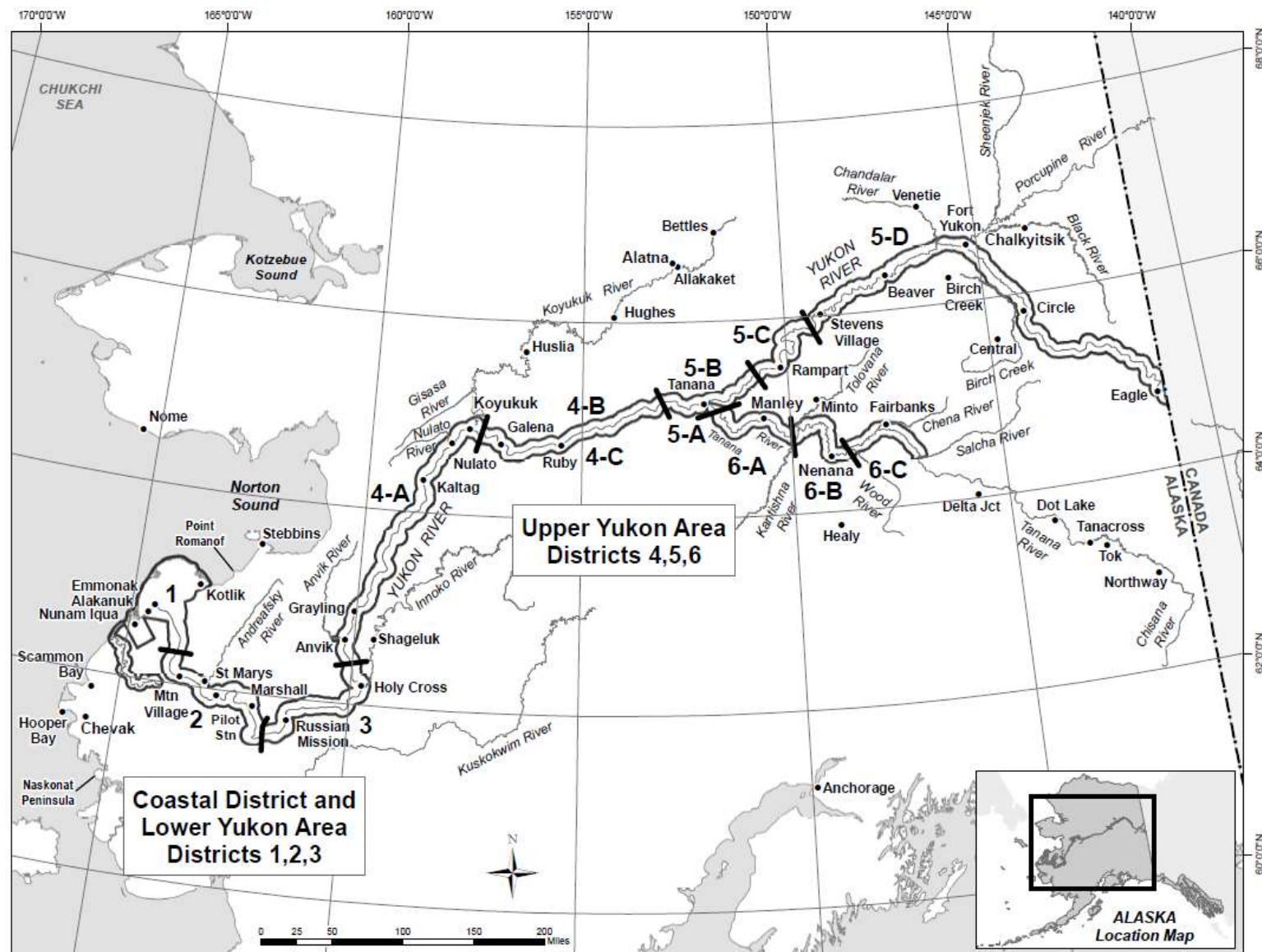


Figure 1.—Yukon Area communities and fishing districts.

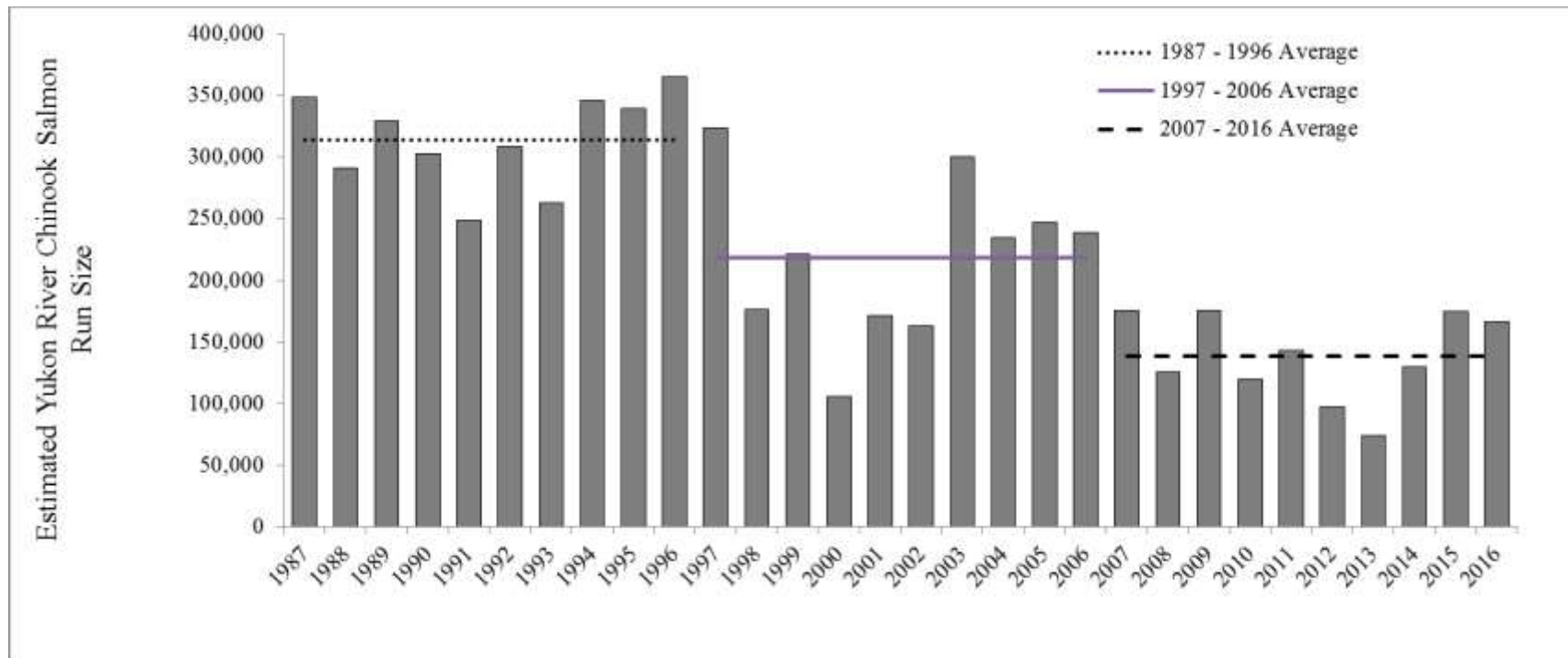


Figure 2.—Yukon River Chinook salmon estimated total run size 1987–2016 with 10-yr average run sizes to illustrate changing productivity.

Appendix A.–Preliminary summer season commercial harvest summary, Yukon Area, 2017. Page 1 of 2.

District 1													
Period	Start Time	Start Date	End Time	End Date	Hours Fished	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Number of Fishermen	Chinook Salmon	Summer Chum Salmon		Avg. Wt.	
									Number Caught and Released	Number Caught but Not Sold	Number		Pounds
1	3:00 PM	10-Jun	3:00 AM	11-Jun	12	DN/BS		62	153		1,105	6,854	6.2
2	3:00 PM	12-Jun	3:00 AM	13-Jun	12	DN/BS		88	344		8,473	52,067	6.1
3	3:00 PM	13-Jun	3:00 AM	14-Jun	12	DN/BS		117	376		8,886	54,255	6.1
4	3:00 PM	14-Jun	3:00 AM	15-Jun	12	DN/BS		73	230		4,006	24,974	6.2
5	3:00 PM	15-Jun	3:00 AM	16-Jun	12	DN/BS		73	363		4,150	25,287	6.1
6	3:00 PM	16-Jun	3:00 AM	17-Jun	12	DN/BS		133	597		15,726	96,851	6.2
7	3:00 PM	17-Jun	3:00 AM	18-Jun	12	DN/BS		111	373		9,011	54,902	6.1
8	3:00 PM	19-Jun	3:00 AM	20-Jun	12	DN/BS		115	675		17,059	102,063	6.0
9	3:00 PM	20-Jun	3:00 AM	21-Jun	12	DN/BS		109	413		11,578	69,511	6.0
10	3:00 PM	21-Jun	3:00 AM	22-Jun	12	DN/BS		108	352		11,399	68,635	6.0
11	9:00 PM	23-Jun	1:00 AM	24-Jun	4	GN	5.5	176		616	20,841	132,285	6.3
12	9:00 PM	27-Jun	1:00 AM	26-Jun	4	GN	5.5	175		652	27,040	169,254	6.3
13	4:00 PM	28-Jun	10:00 PM	28-Jun	6	GN	5.5	187		664	34,379	214,683	6.2
14	5:00 PM	29-Jun	11:00 PM	29-Jun	6	GN	5.5	199		916	25,259	156,463	6.2
15	5:00 PM	1-Jul	1:00 AM	2-Jul	8	GN	6	199		892	28,629	183,217	6.4
16	5:00 PM	3-Jul	1:00 AM	4-Jul	8	GN	6	162		537	16,570	107,343	6.5
17	5:00 PM	5-Jul	1:00 AM	6-Jul	8	GN	6	200	5	449	48,118	307,555	6.4
18	5:00 PM	7-Jul	1:00 AM	8-Jul	8	GN	6	182		422	34,250	220,953	6.5
19	5:00 PM	10-Jul	2:00 AM	11-Jul	9	GN	6	180		238	15,208	98,306	6.5
20	5:00 PM	12-Jul	2:00 AM	13-Jul	9	GN	6	99		75	1,490	9,272	6.2
21	5:00 PM	14-Jul	2:00 AM	15-Jul	9	GN	6	41		17	580	3,603	6.2
22	5:00 PM	15-Jul	2:00 AM	16-Jul	9	GN	6	40		34	1,638	10,232	6.2
Fall Season									1	187			
District 1 Subtotal ^{a, b} :					208			284	3,881	5,699	345,395	2,168,565	6.3

Appendix A.–Preliminary summer season commercial harvest summary, Yukon Area, 2017. Page 2 of 2.

District 2													
Period	Start Time	Start Date	End Time	End Date	Hours Fished	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Number Fishermen	Chinook Salmon		Summer Chum Salmon		Avg. Wt.
									Number Caught and Released	Number Caught but Not Sold	Number	Pounds	
1	9:00 PM	21-Jun	3:00 AM	22-Jun	6	DN/BS		56	143		5,416	32,459	6.0
2	9:00 PM	23-Jun	3:00 AM	24-Jun	6	DN/BS		71	81		6,868	40,370	5.9
3	7:00 PM	26-Jun	3:00 AM	27-Jun	8	DN/BS		69	96		8,537	50,436	5.9
4	4:00 PM	28-Jun	11:59 PM	28-Jun	8	DN/BS		76	112		8,936	52,537	5.9
5	4:00 PM	30-Jun	11:59 PM	30-Jun	8	DN/BS		76	194		6,821	39,679	5.8
6	4:00 PM	4-Jul	11:59 PM	4-Jul	8	DN/BS		39	39		1,584	8,927	5.6
7	4:00 PM	6-Jul	11:59 AM	6-Jul	8	DN/BS		55	77		5,488	31,792	5.8
8	6:00 PM	11-Jul	8:00 PM	11-Jul	2	GN	6	50		53	2,560	16,105	6.3
9	6:00 PM	13-Jul	8:00 PM	13-Jul	2	GN	6	43		24	1,560	9,718	6.2
Fall Season									1	37			
District 2 Subtotal ^a :					56			114	743	114	47,770	282,023	5.9
Districts 1 and 2 Subtotal ^{a, b, c} :					264			388	4,624	5,813	393,165	2,450,588	6.2
Upper Yukon Summer Season ^d													
	Start Date	End Date	Hours Fished	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Number Fishermen	Chinook Salmon		Summer Chum Salmon		Avg. Wt.		
							Number Caught and Released	Number Caught but Not Sold	Number	Pounds			
District 4	25-Jun	Jun-31	798	FW ^e	6 ^e	10	41	0	157,831	789,239	5.0		
District 6	14-Jul	7-Aug	336	FW/GN	7.5	3	62	185	4,300	24,943	5.8		
Upper Yukon Area Subtotal:					1,134		13	103	185	162,131	814,182	5.0	
Districts 1 Through 6 Total ^{a, b, d} :					1,398		401	4,727	5,998	555,296	3,264,770	5.9	

Note: Chinook salmon caught in gillnets were not allowed to be sold throughout the summer season. Chinook salmon caught in dip nets and beach seines were required to be immediately released alive. DN = dip net; BS = beach seine; GN = gillnet; FW = fish wheel. No commercial fishing occurred in Districts 3 and 5.

^a Includes Chinook salmon caught but not sold in the fall season.

^b Does not include 168 Chinook salmon sold on July 17 in District 1.

^c The number of fishermen is the unique number of permits fished. Some fishermen may fish multiple areas, therefore the subtotals may not add up by district.

^d To preserve confidentiality in Upper Yukon commercial fisheries with few permit holders only the district totals are presented.

^e Commercial fishing was open with fish wheels from June 25 to July 28. Commercial fishing with fish wheels and gillnets was open July 29 to July 31.

Appendix B.–Summer chum salmon commercial harvests by district for 2007–2017.

District/ Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	5-yr Average (2012–2016)
District 1		106,790	67,459	71,355	102,267	163,439	150,800	207,871	198,240	172,639	293,576	345,395	204,625
District 2		69,432	58,139	86,571	80,948	103,071	57,049	171,272	229,107	181,447	228,267	47,770	173,428
Subtotal Districts 1– 2	251,000–755,000	176,222	125,598	157,926	183,215	266,510	207,849	379,143	427,347	354,086	521,843	393,165	378,054
Subdistrict 4-A	113,000–338,000	7,304	23,746	4,589	44,207		108,222	100,507	96,385			157,831	101,705
District 6	13,000–38,000	14,674	1,842	7,777	5,466	8,651	3,504	5,937	6,912	4,770	4,020	4,300	5,029
Total Districts 1-6	400,000– 1,200,000	198,201	151,186	170,292	232,888	275,161	319,575	485,587	530,644	358,856	525,863	555,296	444,105

Note: Commercial harvest only includes summer chum salmon sold in the round. The guideline harvest ranges for District 3 and District 5 are 6,000–19,000 fish, and 1,000–3,000 fish. Only 1 summer chum salmon was sold in 2007 from District 3 and none were sold in Districts 3 and 5 from 2007–2017.

Appendix C.—Value of commercial salmon fishery to Yukon Area fishermen, 1997–2017.

Year	Chinook					Summer Chum					Value by Species		Value by Area		Total	
	Lower Yukon		Upper Yukon		Lower Yukon		Upper Yukon									
	\$/lb	Value	\$/lb	\$/Roe	Value	\$/lb	\$/Roe	Value	\$/lb	\$/Roe	Value					
1997	2.46	5,450,433	0.97	1.62	110,713	0.10		56,535	0.07	1.08	96,806	5,561,146	153,341	5,506,968	207,519	5,714,487
1998	2.51	1,911,370	0.91	2.00	17,285	0.14		26,415	0.18	1.90	821	1,928,655	27,236	1,937,785	18,106	1,955,891
1999	3.80	4,950,522	1.10	2.11	74,475	0.10		19,687	0.18	2.25	1,719	5,024,997	21,406	4,970,209	76,194	5,046,403
2000	4.57	725,606				0.17		8,633				725,606	8,633	734,239		734,239
2001																
2002	3.77	1,691,105	0.75	1.75	20,744	0.06		4,342	0.32	2.25	6,176	1,711,849	10,518	1,695,447	26,920	1,722,367
2003	2.37	1,871,202	0.80		40,957	0.05		1,585	0.27		6,879	1,912,159	8,464	1,872,787	47,836	1,920,623
2004	2.80	3,063,667	0.77		38,290	0.05		8,884	0.27		9,645	3,101,957	18,529	3,072,551	47,935	3,120,486
2005	3.43	1,952,109	0.87		24,415	0.05		11,004	0.25		13,479	1,976,524	24,483	1,963,113	37,894	2,001,007
2006	3.94	3,290,367	1.30		32,631	0.05		23,862	0.16		42,988	3,322,998	66,850	3,314,229	75,619	3,389,848
2007	3.73	1,939,114	1.33		27,190	0.19		220,715	0.25	2.36	34,421	1,966,304	255,136	2,159,829	61,611	2,221,440
2008	4.64	325,470				0.40		326,930	0.25	3.00	65,840	325,470	392,770	656,606 ^a	65,840	722,896
2009	5.00	20,970				0.50		514,856	0.26	3.00	20,430	20,970	535,286	535,826 ^b	20,430	556,256
2010	5.00	639,230				0.70		821,180	0.23		61,534	639,230	882,714	821,209 ^b	61,534	882,743
2011						0.75		1,301,008	0.26		12,966		1,313,974	1,301,103 ^b	12,966	1,314,069
2012						0.75		979,531	0.37		187,272		1,166,803	980,424	187,272	1,166,803
2013						0.75		1,720,703	0.30		152,903		1,873,606	1,720,731 ^b	152,903	1,873,634
2014						0.60		1,648,866	0.29		154,959		1,803,825	1,662,634 ^c	154,959	1,817,593
2015						0.60		1,259,908	0.23		7,166		1,267,074	1,262,034 ^c	7,166	1,269,200
2016						0.60		1,903,490	0.26		6,030		1,909,520	1,958,311 ^c	6,030	1,964,341
2017						0.60		1,470,353	0.34		274,608		1,744,961	1,470,353 ^d	274,608	1,744,961
2007–2016																
Average	4.59	731,196	1.33		27,190	0.58		1,069,719	0.27	2.79	70,352	737,993	1,140,071	1,305,871	73,071	1,378,898

Note: Blank cells indicate no sales occurred or harvest level was insufficient to generate summary information.

^a Includes sales of pink salmon in Districts 1 and 2.

^b Includes sales of coho salmon in Districts 1 and 2.

^c Includes sales of pink and coho salmon in Districts 1 and 2.

^d Does not include value from Chinook salmon sold during fall season.

2017 YUKON AREA FALL SEASON SUMMARY

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2017 Yukon Area Fall Season Summary

This news release provides a preliminary summary of the 2017 Yukon Area fall season including fall chum and coho salmon harvests and escapement. All reported results are preliminary and subject to revision.

2017 Fall Season Outlook

The forecasted fall chum salmon run size, using brood year analysis, was a point estimate of 1,560,000 fish with a range of 1,400,000 to 1,700,000 fish. A preseason run projection was made in mid-July using the historical relationship between summer and fall chum salmon run sizes. Using an estimated summer chum salmon run size of 3.6 M fish, the resulting preseason fall chum salmon projection was within the forecasted range.

Assuming average run survival from the 2013 parent year, and based on recent trends, the 2017 coho salmon outlook was for an average to above average run size. A coho salmon index developed for the Yukon River from 1995 to 2016 (excluding 1996 and 2009) suggests that the median escapement is approximately 165,000 fish.

Preseason Management Strategy

The preseason run projection indicated that the 2017 fall chum salmon run would be sufficient to meet escapement needs, an above average subsistence harvest, and a limited commercial harvest. The preseason management strategy included the following components:

- Concurrent with the fall chum salmon migration upriver, all Yukon Area districts and subdistricts would be placed on their full regulatory subsistence fishing schedule, and the use of gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less would be allowed.
- Porcupine River fall chum salmon stock abundances have been low in recent years compared to other stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Fall chum salmon escapements into the Canadian Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River, have

consistently fallen short of meeting the escapement objectives agreed upon by U.S. and Canadian representatives in recent years. In an attempt to improve fall chum salmon escapement into the spawning grounds in Canada, the department anticipated either implementing a restricted subsistence fishing schedule or completely closing subsistence salmon fishing in the Alaska portion of the mainstem Porcupine River as the fall chum salmon migration reached that area.

- Commercial salmon fishing in Districts 1 and 2 would proceed on a 2 day a week schedule with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or less mesh size. The amount of commercial opportunity would be adjusted based on inseason assessment information. It was anticipated that smaller scale commercial fishing would occur in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and District 6.

2017 Assessment

The department monitored a suite of assessment projects in the lower river that provided salmon run timing, relative abundance, and stock composition information. Projects operated included two drift gillnet test fisheries that provided timing information and relative abundance, a mainstem Yukon River sonar located near Pilot Station that provided abundance estimates, and harvest information from both subsistence and commercial fisheries. Genetic samples collected from chum salmon at the mainstem sonar provided stock composition information. Additionally escapement projects were operated in the upper Yukon River tributaries and the upper mainstem of the Yukon River. Assessment projects operated in the upper river included a sonar in the mainstem Yukon River near U.S./Canada border as well as in two tributaries (Chandalar and Upper Porcupine Rivers), and a weir on the Fishing Branch River (Porcupine River headwater). Data from these projects were analyzed collectively inseason, were used to verify collaboration between projects and project whether escapement goals would be achieved. Age, sex, and length information were also collected at the lower river test fisheries, District 1 commercial fishery, mainstem Yukon River sonar (Eagle), as well as Fishing Branch and Delta Rivers.

By regulation the fall season began in District 1 on July 16. Chum salmon caught in the Lower Yukon River Drift Gillnet Test Fishery (LYTF) after July 16 were considered fall chum salmon. Mountain Village Drift Gillnet Test Fishery (MVTF) began operating on July 18, and the mainstem Yukon River sonar operated near Pilot Station began counting fall chum salmon on July 19. The subsequent transition of upriver districts and subdistricts to the fall season was based on the migration timing of fall chum salmon. The LYTF completed operations on September 10 (the project was operated by the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association after ADF&G ceased operations on August 28) and had a preliminary total cumulative catch per unit effort (CPUE) for fall chum salmon of 3,827 which is well above the historical median of 1,923. The MVTF ceased operations after September 12 with a preliminary cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon of 6,390 which was well above the historical median of 2,035. The mainstem Yukon River sonar near Pilot Station ceased operations after September 7. The preliminary fall chum salmon passage estimate at the mainstem sonar project near Pilot Station was 1.8 million fish, which was well above the historical median of 688,000 fish.

The 2017 fall chum salmon run entered the Yukon River in seven distinct pulses. The forth pulse was the largest and approximately 1.1 million fish in size. The pulse was seven days in duration with the peak daily passage at the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station occurring on August 16. Cumulative fall chum salmon passage past the mainstem sonar remained well above the

historical median the entire season. Inseason run projections remained well above the 550,000 fall chum salmon threshold necessary to allow fall chum salmon directed commercial fishing. Run timing for fall chum salmon was only slightly late, averaging two days late over all the assessment projects.

The cumulative coho salmon passage past the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station was tracking with the historical median throughout the season. The preliminary coho salmon passage estimate at the mainstem sonar project near Pilot Station was 166,300 fish, which was above the historical median of 160,300 fish. Both the preliminary total cumulative CPUE for coho salmon at the LYTF and MVTF were above historical medians.

Subsistence Fisheries

In anticipation that the fall chum salmon run size in 2017 would meet both escapement needs and provide for a commercial surplus, all districts and subdistricts were placed on their regulatory subsistence fishing schedules upon transitioning to fall season management. The transition date was based on the fall chum salmon migration timing upriver. Because of the strong run size and inseason run projections, the department liberalized subsistence fishing schedules in all districts. Upon transitioning to fall season management, subsistence fishermen were allowed to use gillnets up to 7.5 inch mesh size.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the mainstem Porcupine River was placed on a reduced schedule of one 96-hour period per week beginning September 4. Subsistence salmon fishing on Porcupine River tributaries, such as the Sheenjek and Black rivers, remained open seven days a week, 24 hours per day. The reduced schedule was an attempt to increase the number of fall chum salmon reaching the Canadian portion of the Porcupine River drainage. By September 22, based on favorable escapement projections for the Fishing Branch River weir, subsistence salmon fishing was relaxed to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A comprehensive estimate of the 2017 subsistence salmon harvest based on household surveys and permit harvest information is not available at this time, but is anticipated to be available by early spring of 2018. Subsistence and personal use harvests are expected to be similar to 2017 which were estimated to be approximately 85,000 fall chum salmon and 9,100 coho salmon.

Commercial Fishing Summary

There were a total of 71 commercial periods in 2017. Table 1 provides a summary of the 2017 Yukon Area fall season commercial salmon harvest by district. The majority of fall season commercial harvest occurred in the lower river districts. Commercial fishing periods were established in Districts 5 and 6 as well as Subdistrict 4-A, but limited markets resulted in low fishing effort and relatively small harvests. The total commercial harvest for the Yukon River in the Alaska portion of the drainage was 489,702 fall chum salmon and 138,915 coho salmon (Table 1). The commercial harvest of fall chum salmon in 2017 eclipsed the previous record of 467,687 fish harvested in 1981, and was higher than the 465,511 fish harvested in 2016 (Table 2). The coho salmon harvest was down from 2016 but above the 2012 to 2015 average (Table 3). The average weight of fall chum salmon caught commercially in Districts 1 and 2 was 7.3 lbs. The average weight of coho salmon was 6.3 lbs. All fall chum and coho salmon were sold in the round except for small amounts of fall chum salmon roe sold in Districts 5 and 6. The exvessel value of the total salmon harvest was \$2.9 million; \$2.1 for fall chum and \$0.8 million for coho salmon (Table 4). The average price per pound paid for fall chum salmon in Districts 1 and 2

was \$0.60; the average price paid for coho salmon was \$1.00. A total of 451 individual permit holders participated in the fall chum and coho salmon fishery: 438 in Districts 1 and 2 combined and 13 in Districts 4 through 6 (Table 5). Participation is near the recent the 5-year average of 453 permits in the Yukon Area.

Salmon Escapement

Total run size, was estimated to be 2,289,000 fall chum salmon based on the abundance estimate from the mainstem Yukon River sonar operated near Pilot Station, including estimated commercial and average subsistence harvests downstream of the sonar site (including test fisheries). Based on the location of the project, at river mile 123, the abundance estimate includes Koyukuk River drainage stocks which turn off at river mile 508.

Calculating total run size postseason is based on individually monitored spawning escapements (primarily above river mile 695), including estimated U.S. and Canadian harvests. Escapements were monitored using sonars in the Chandalar River, upper Porcupine River in Canada, and Canadian mainstem Yukon River (near Eagle). The Fishing Branch River weir was operated with a sonar component in the headwaters of the Porcupine River in Canada. Sheenjek River was not monitored and was estimated based on a relationship of the two bank operations compared to Fishing Branch River weir. Assessment of Tanana River stocks were based on a relationship with the Canadian mainstem component, similar to the last year however of note was that this year's estimates based on genetic proportion (both summer and fall Tanana River stocks passing after July 19) were considerably higher. The Delta River escapement estimate was the highest on record but within expected run size values given the independent estimates of Tanana River component and the level of harvest that occurred. In 2017, estimating run size based on the various projects resulted in a preliminary estimate of approximately 2,289,000 fall chum salmon. The estimate based on the mainstem sonar plus estimates of downstream harvest and the independent assessment by escapement projects plus overall harvest are very comparable. The final run reconstruction estimate however will be determined using the Bayesian statistical methods once the subsistence harvest estimates are completed. Using preliminary estimates of harvest the estimated escapement is 1,705,000 fall chum salmon which is well above the upper end of the drainagewide SEG range of 300,000 to 600,000 fish.

The fall chum salmon escapement of 509,000 (includes expansions to the end of the run) into Chandalar River exceeded the upper end of the BEG range of 74,000 to 152,000 fish. The estimated run size of 212,000 fall chum salmon in the Sheenjek River would suggest that the escapement based on the right bank only would have been exceeded. The Sheenjek River escapement goal was discontinued in 2016 due to the lack of assessment project to measure the goal. Table 6 shows historical escapements to selected spawning areas in the Yukon Area. The estimate of 65,000 chum salmon escapement for the upper Porcupine River was based on the sonar counts minus preliminary harvests in Old Crow Yukon Territory. The Fishing Branch River weir estimate was approximately 48,000 fall chum salmon which was near the upper end of the IMEG of 22,000–49,000 fish. Based on the drainagewide second highest run size and escapement estimate on record one would have expected more fish in the Porcupine River escapement, bearing out the lower productivity of this system. The preliminary escapement was estimated to be 401,000 fall chum salmon for the mainstem Yukon River in Canada which exceeded the upper end of the interim management escapement goal range of 70,000 to 104,000 fish. The Tanana River preliminary estimate of escapement of 516,000 fall chum salmon exceeded the upper end of the BEG range of 61,000 to 136,000 fall chum salmon.

Stock composition estimates were provided by USFWS Conservation Genetics Laboratory using tissue samples (fin clips) collected from chum salmon captured in the mainstem Yukon River sonar test net fishery. Chum salmon genetic samples processed from six strata between July 19 and September 7 (fall season) indicated that stocks represented approximately 12% summer, 33% Border U.S. (Chandalar/Sheenjek), 22% Canadian, and 33% Tanana.

In 2017, the proportion of age-3 fall chum salmon was below average (<3), age-4 fish (82%) was well above average (66%), age-5 fish (16%) was below average, and age-6 fish was below average (<1%) based on samples collected at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery using 6 inch mesh drift gillnets. The 2013 brood year appears to have had exceptional survival producing high proportions of age-4 fish in combination with an above average return of age-5 fish from the 2012 brood year resulting in the second largest run on record. Females contributed 61% of the samples and were slightly above average (58%). Fall chum salmon length samples in 2017 averaged 580 mm compared to the long term 1981–2016 average of 594 mm.

There are few coho salmon spawning escapement assessment projects in the Yukon River drainage because of funding limitations and late timing relative to onset of winter. The sonar in the mainstem Yukon River near Pilot Station was operated through September 7 with an estimated passage of 166,300 coho salmon which is slightly above the historical average of 164,000 fish. Table 7 shows historical escapements to selected spawning areas in the Yukon Area. The Delta Clearwater River (DCR) has the only established escapement goal for coho salmon, a SEG of 5,200–17,000 fish. A boat survey conducted in the DCR in late October observed 9,617 coho salmon which was within the escapement goal. Coho salmon escapement estimates for coho salmon were conducted by aerial surveys in the Nenana River drainage, where three out of four escapements were above the 1974–2016 average and all four were above the 2011–2015 average.

In 2017, age and sex samples were collected from the Lower Yukon Test Fishery using 6 inch mesh drift gillnets. The sex composition and length data are preliminary and ages are not currently available. Females contributed 52% to the samples which was above average (47%). Coho salmon in 2017 averaged 552 mm in length compared to the 1981–2016 average of 579 mm, overall this was the second smallest in this time series.

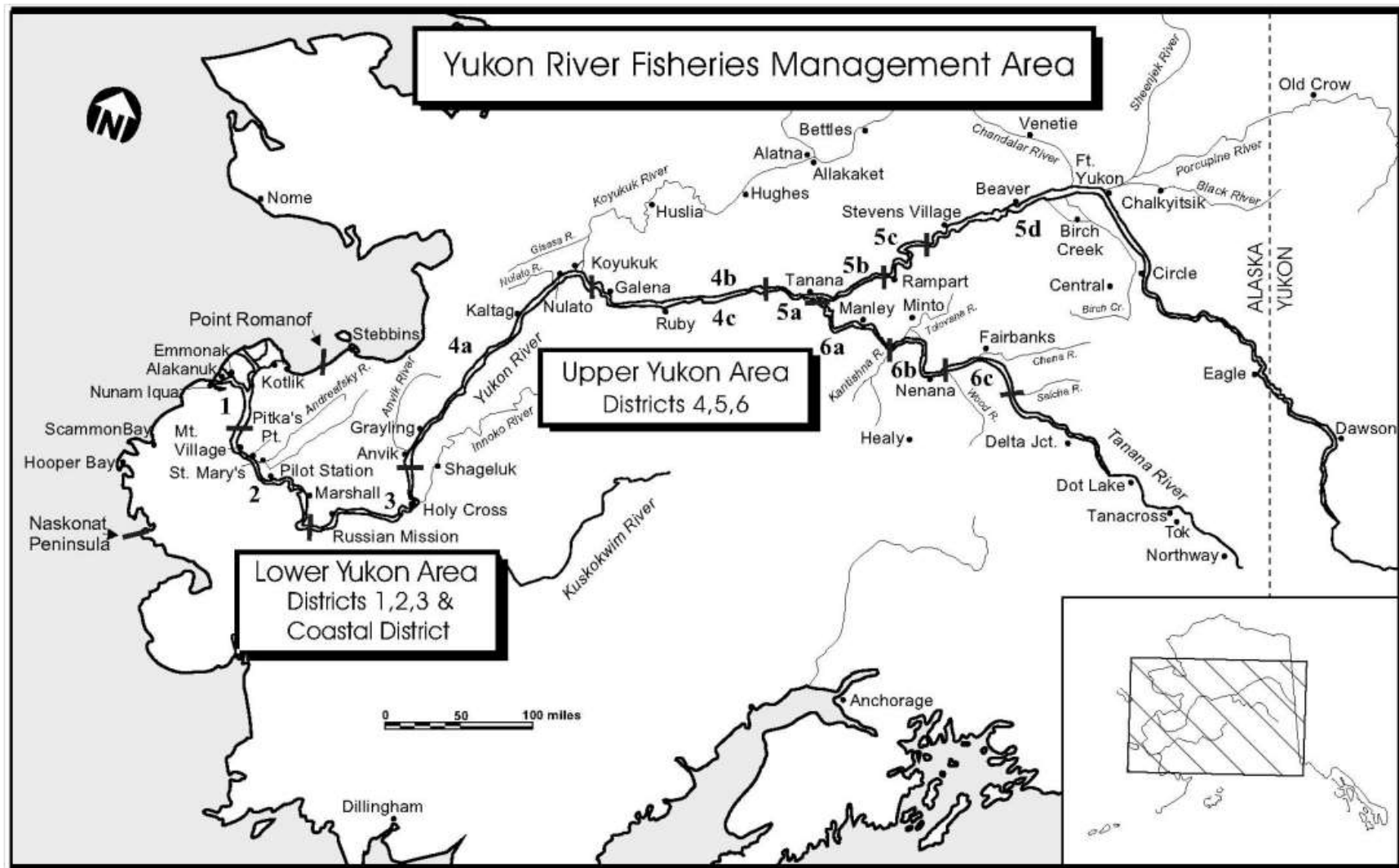


Figure 1.—Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage showing fishing districts and communities.

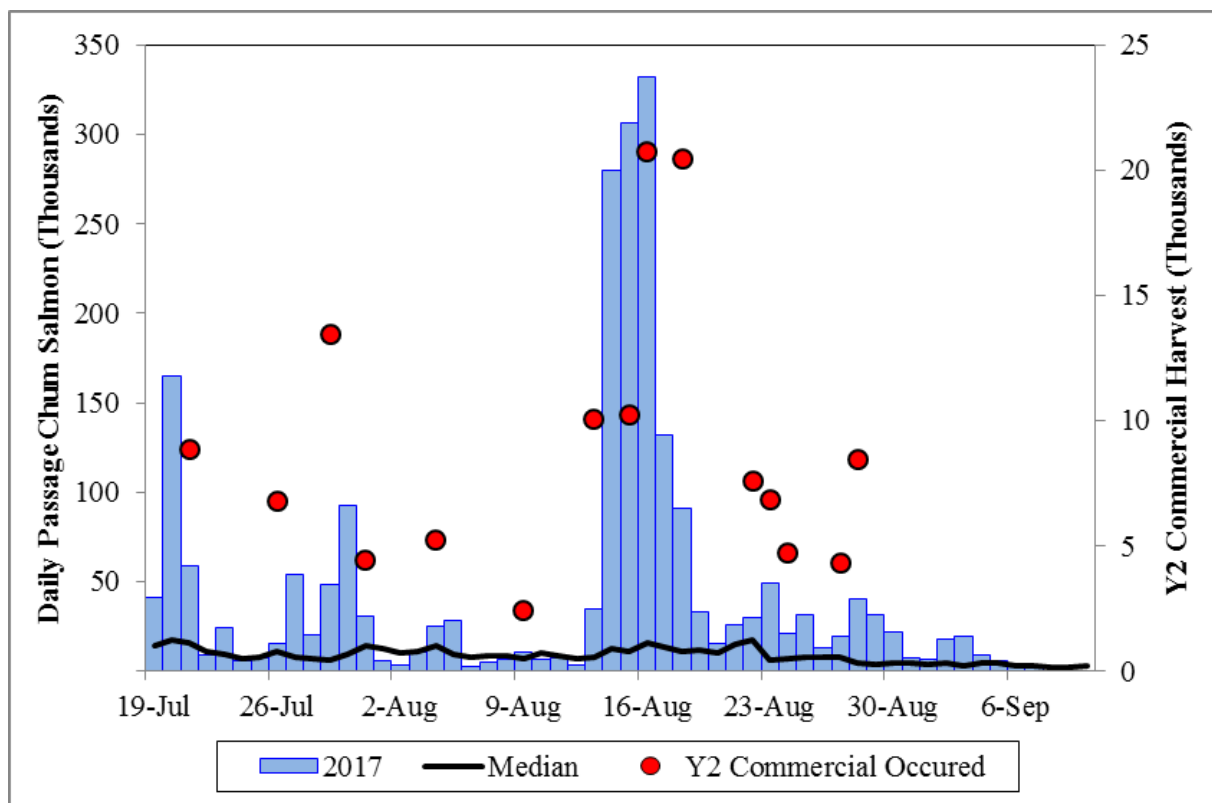


Figure 2.—Run reconstructed daily Yukon River mainstem sonar (Pilot Station) passage estimates attributed to fall chum salmon with commercial periods and harvest indicated 2017, compared to historical median.

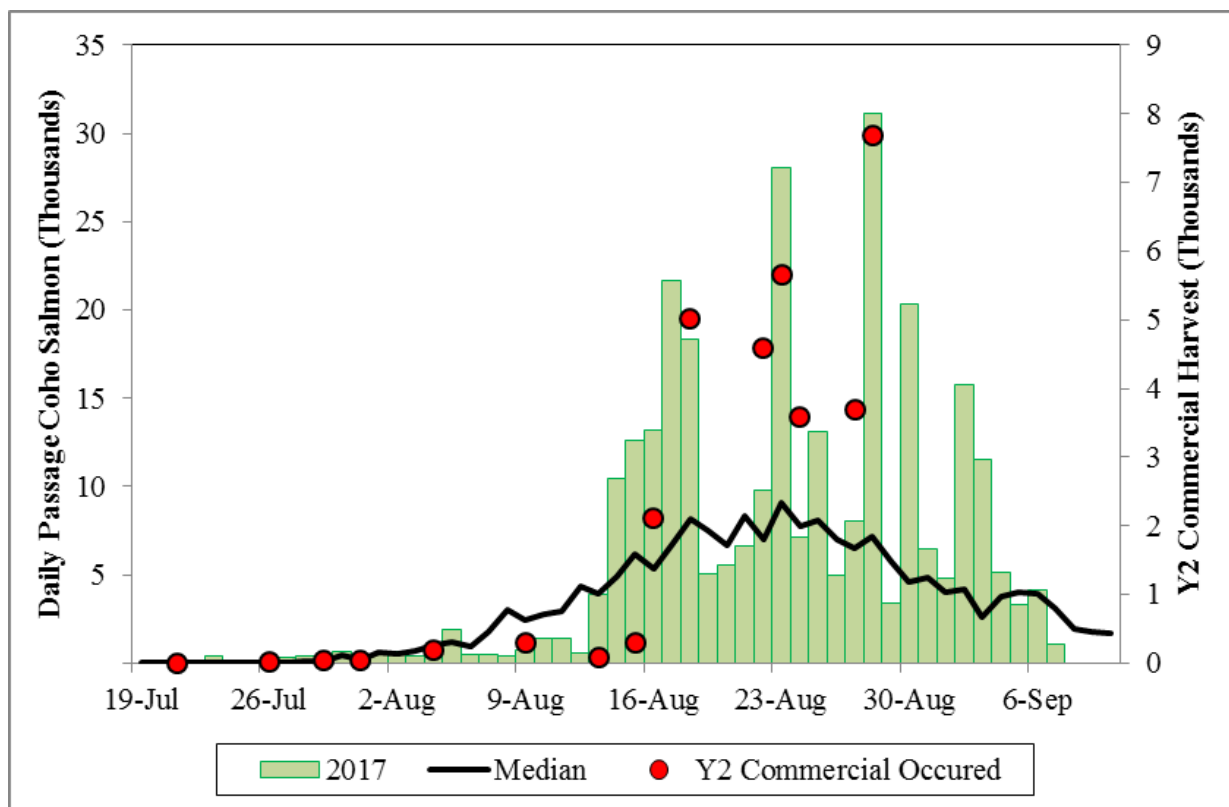


Figure 3.—Run reconstructed daily Yukon River mainstem sonar (Pilot Station) passage estimates attributed to coho salmon with commercial periods and harvest indicated 2017, compared to historical median.

Table 1.—Summary of the fall season commercial salmon harvest, by district, Yukon Area, 2017.

District	Periods	Permits	Fall Chum Salmon			Coho Salmon		
			Number	Pounds	Average Weight ^a	Number	Pounds	Average Weight ^a
1	18	318	328,410	2,407,091	7.3	95,982	610,818	6.4
2	15	144	134,668	989,962	7.4	33,277	203,788	6.1
3			No commercial openings					
4	14	5	1,402	10,072	7.2	0	0	-
5 ^b	9	4	1,952	14,639	7.5	0	0	-
6	15	4	23,270	163,278	7.0	9,656	56,719	5.9
TOTAL	71	451	489,702	3,585,042	7.3	138,915	871,325	6.3

Note: En dash indicates no data available.

^a Average weight is weighted based on individual periods.

^b Commercial fishing occurred in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C.

Table 2.–Fall chum salmon commercial harvest by district, Yukon Area, 1997–2017.

Year ^a	<i>Lower Yukon</i>				<i>Upper Yukon</i> ^b				Yukon
	District 1	District 2	District 3	<i>Subtotal</i>	District 4	District 5	District 6	<i>Subtotal</i>	Total
1997	27,483	24,326	–	51,809	2,458	3,640	–	6,098	57,907
1998	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1999	9,987	9,703	–	19,690	681	–	–	681	20,371
2000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2001	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2002	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2003	5,586	–	–	5,586	1,315	–	4,095	5,410	10,996
2004	660	–	–	660	–	–	3,450	3,450	4,110
2005	130,525	–	–	130,525	–	–	49,637	49,637	180,162
2006	101,254	39,905	–	141,159	–	1,667	23,353	25,020	166,179
2007	38,852	35,826	–	74,678	–	427	15,572	15,999	90,677
2008	67,704	41,270	–	108,974	–	4,556	5,967	10,523	119,497
2009	11,911	12,072	–	23,983	–	–	1,893	1,893	25,876
2010	545	270	–	815	–	–	1,735	1,735	2,550
2011	127,735	100,731	–	228,466	–	1,246	10,917	12,163	240,629
2012	139,842	129,284	–	269,126	811	2,419	17,336	20,566	289,692
2013	106,588	106,274	–	212,862	–	1,041	24,148	25,189	238,051
2014	51,829	59,138	–	110,967	–	1,264	3,368	4,632	115,599
2015	100,562	74,214	–	174,776	–	1,048	15,646	16,694	191,470
2016	226,576	213,340	–	439,916	–	7,542	18,053	25,595	465,511
2017	328,410	134,668	–	463,078	1,402	1,952	23,270	26,624	489,702
Average									
2012-2016	125,079	116,450	–	241,529		2,663	15,710	18,535	260,065
2007-2016	87,214	77,242	–	164,456		2,443	11,464	13,499	177,955

Note: En dash indicates no commercial fishing occurred. Blank cells indicate insufficient information to generate average.

^a Number of fish harvested are based on reports from the State TIX, Zephyr, and OceanAK programs.

^b Estimated harvest is the number of fish sold in the round plus the estimated number of females to produce the roe sold.

Table 3.–Coho salmon commercial harvest by district, Yukon River, 1997–2017.

Year ^a	<i>Lower Yukon</i>				<i>Upper Yukon</i> ^b				Yukon
	District 1	District 2	District 3	<i>Subtotal</i>	District 4	District 5	District 6	<i>Subtotal</i>	Total
1997	21,450	13,056	–	34,506	814	–	–	814	35,320
1998	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1999	855	746	–	1,601	–	–	–	–	1,601
2000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2001	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2002	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2003	9,757	–	–	9,757	–	–	15,119	15,119	24,876
2004	1,583	–	–	1,583	–	–	18,649	18,649	20,232
2005	36,533	–	–	36,533	–	–	21,778	21,778	58,311
2006	39,323	14,482	–	53,805	–	–	11,137	11,137	64,942
2007	21,720	21,487	–	43,207	–	–	1,368	1,368	44,575
2008	13,946	19,248	–	33,194	–	91	2,408	2,499	35,693
2009	5,992	1,577	–	7,569	–	–	742	742	8,311
2010	1,027	1,023	–	2,050	–	–	1,700	1,700	3,750
2011	45,335	24,184	–	69,519	–	–	7,502	7,502	77,021
2012	39,757	29,063	–	68,820	0	634	5,335	5,969	74,789
2013	27,304	31,456	–	58,760	–	–	7,439	7,439	66,199
2014	54,804	48,602	–	103,406	–	0	1,286	1,286	104,692
2015	66,029	54,860	–	120,889	–	0	8,811	8,811	129,700
2016	113,669	67,208	–	180,877	–	54	20,551	20,605	201,482
2017	95,982	33,277	–	129,259	0	0	9,656	9,656	138,915
Average									
2012-2016	60,313	46,238	–	106,550	0	172	8,684	8,822	115,372
2007-2016	38,958	29,871	–	68,829	0	156	5,714	5,792	74,621

Note: En dash indicates no commercial fishing occurred.

^a Numbers of fish harvested are based on reports from the State TIX, Zephyr, and OceanAK programs.

^b Estimated harvest is the number of fish sold in the round plus the estimated number of females to produce the roe sold.

Table 4.—Exvessel value of fall chum and coho salmon commercial salmon fishery, 1997–2017.

Year	Fall Chum						Coho						Value by Species		Value by Area		
	Lower Yukon		Upper Yukon		Lower Yukon		Upper Yukon										
	\$/lb	Value	\$/lb	\$/lb Roe	Value	\$/lb	\$/lb Roe	Value	\$/lb	\$/lb Roe	Value	Fall Chum	Coho	Lower	Upper	Total	
1997	0.22	86,526	0.17	1.75	7,252	0.32		79,973	0.20		1,062	93,778	81,035	166,499	8,314	174,813	
1998	—	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	
1999	0.25	35,639	0.20		876	0.35		3,620	—		—	36,515	—	39,259	876	40,135	
2000	—	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	
2001	—	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	
2002	—	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	
2003	0.15	5,993	0.10		3,398	0.25		18,168	0.05		5,095	9,391	23,263	24,161	8,493	32,654	
2004	0.25	1,126	0.05		848	0.25		2,774	0.06		6,372	1,974	9,146	3,900	7,220	11,120	
2005	0.32	316,698	0.14		48,159	0.32		83,793	0.12		19,182	364,857	102,975	400,491	67,341	467,832	
2006	0.20	202,637	0.14		33,806	0.20		50,299	0.19		11,137	236,443	61,436	252,936	44,943	297,879	
2007	0.27	144,256	0.20		16,907	0.39		127,869	0.20		1,368	161,163	129,237	272,125	18,275	290,400	
2008	0.55	428,969	0.27		22,089	0.97		216,777	0.20		3,717	451,058	220,494	645,746	25,806	671,552	
2009	0.70	108,778	0.19		1,286	1.00		52,176	0.15		457	110,064	52,633	160,954	1,743	162,697	
2010	1.00	5,428	0.23		2,761	1.50		20,535	0.26		442	8,189	20,977	25,963	3,203	29,166	
2011	1.00	1,627,575	0.22		16,114	1.00		472,168	0.15		6,792	1,643,689	478,960	2,099,743	22,906	2,122,649	
2012	0.75	1,385,550	0.22		28,354	1.25		534,523	0.22		7,428	1,413,904	541,951	1,920,073	35,782	1,955,855	
2013	0.75	1,154,203	0.16		25,744	1.10		453,998	0.17		7,115	1,179,947	461,113	1,608,201	32,859	1,641,060	
2014	0.75	621,975	0.25		8,156	1.00		706,665	0.38		2,380	630,131	709,045	1,328,640	10,536	1,339,176	
2015	0.60	762,142	0.14		15,683	0.70		616,617	0.12		6,877	777,825	623,494	1,378,759	22,560	1,401,319	
2016	0.68	2,093,566	0.14		22,477	1.00		1,143,844	0.13		15,540	2,116,043	1,159,384	3,237,410	38,017	3,275,427	
2017	0.60	2,038,232	0.15	1.75	29,176	1.00		814,580	0.15	2.00	8,778	2,067,408	823,358	2,852,812	37,954	2,890,766	
Average																	
2012-2016	0.71	1,203,3487	0.18		20,083	1.01		691,129	0.20		7,868	1,223,570	698,997	1,894,617	27,951	1,922,567	

Note: En dash indicates no commercial fishing occurred.

Table 5.—Number of permit holders participating in fall season commercial salmon fisheries, by district, Yukon Area, 1997–2017.

Fall Chum and Coho Salmon Season ^a									
Year	Lower Yukon Area				Upper Yukon Area				Yukon Area Total
	District 1	District 2	District 3	Subtotal ^b	District 4	District 5	District 6	Subtotal ^c	
1997	176	130	0	304	3	8	0	11	315
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	146	110	0	254	4	0	0	4	258
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	75	0	0	75	2	0	5	7	82
2004	26	0	0	26	0	0	6	6	32
2005	177	0	0	177	0	0	7	7	184
2006	219	71	0	286	0	4	11	15	301
2007	181	122	0	300	0	2	8	10	310
2008	251	177	0	428	0	3	8	11	439
2009	165	130	0	292	0	0	2	2	294
2010	72	18	0	90	0	0	4	4	94
2011	234	169	0	395	0	2	5	8	403
2012	266	201	0	457	4	3	5	13	462
2013	251	197	0	436	0	1	6	7	443
2014	256	199	0	441	0	2	2	4	445
2015	266	184	0	440	0	1	5	6	446
2016	275	197	0	472	0	4	4	8	467
2017	318	144	0	438	5	4	4	13	451
Average									
2007-2016	222	159	0	374	0	2	5	7	380
2012-2016	263	196	0	447	1	2	4	8	453

^a Number of permit holders which made at least one delivery.

^b The Lower Yukon Area subtotal is the unique number of permits fished in Districts 1, 2, and 3 as fishermen may transfer between districts during the season.

^c The sum of Districts 4, 5, and 6 averages may not equal Upper Yukon Area district subtotal due to rounding error.

Table 6.–Fall chum salmon passage estimates or escapement estimates for selected spawning areas, Yukon River drainage, 1997 to 2017.

Year	Alaska						Canada		
	Yukon River Mainstem Sonar Estimate	Tanana River Drainage			Upper Yukon River Drainage		Fishing Branch River	Porcupine River Sonar	Mainstem Escapement Estimate
		Delta River ^a	Bluff Cabin Slough ^b	Tanana River Estimate ^c	Chandalar River ^d	Sheenjek River ^e	^f	^g	^h
1997	579,767	7,705	5,707	88,641	211,914	80,423 ⁱ	27,031	—	85,419
1998	375,222	7,804	3,549	82,475	83,899	33,058	13,687	—	46,252
1999	451,505	16,534	7,037	109,309	92,685	14,229	12,958	—	58,552
2000	273,206	3,001	1,595	55,983	71,048	30,084 ^j	5,057	—	53,732
2001	408,961	8,103	1,808 ^k	116,012	112,664	53,932	21,737	—	33,491
2002	367,886	11,992	3,116	163,421	94,472	31,642	13,600	—	98,679
2003	923,540	22,582	10,600 ^k	263,302	221,343	44,047 ^l	29,713	—	143,133
2004	633,368	25,073	10,270 ^k	187,409	169,848	37,878	20,417	—	154,080
2005	1,894,078	28,132	11,964 ^k	372,758	526,838	561,863 ^m	119,058	—	437,733
2006	964,238	14,055	—	233,193	254,778	160,178 ^m	30,954	—	220,898
2007	740,195	18,610	—	357,016	243,805	65,435 ^m	32,150	—	236,987
2008	636,525	23,055	1,198	264,200 ⁿ	178,278	50,353 ^m	19,086	—	167,898 ^o
2009	— ^p	13,492	2,900 ^k	159,828 ⁿ	150,000 ^q	54,126 ^m	25,828	—	93,626 ^o
2010	458,103	17,993	1,610 ^k	212,660 ⁿ	167,532	22,053	15,773	—	117,789 ^o
2011	873,877	23,639	2,655 ^k	270,846 ⁿ	298,223	97,976 ^m	13,085	—	205,566 ^o
2012	778,158	9,377 ^b	—	102,096 ⁿ	205,791	104,701 ^m	22,399	—	137,662 ^o
2013	865,295	31,955	5,554 ^k	275,089 ^r	252,710	110,000 ^s	—	35,615	200,262 ^o
2014	706,630	32,480 ^b	4,095 ^k	215,393 ^r	226,489	43,000 ^s	—	17,698	156,796 ^o
2015	669,483	33,401 ^b	6,020 ^k	149,265 ^r	164,486	55,000 ^s	9,000	21,396	109,505 ^o
2016	994,760	21,913 ^b	4,936 ^k	197,163 ^r	295,023	153,000 ^s	29,397	54,395	145,267 ^o
2017 ^t	1,829,931	45,238 ^b	—	516,331 ^r	509,115	212,000 ^s	48,422	67,818	401,489 ^o
All Years Average	715,516 ^p	18,545	4,977	193,803	201,091	90,149	25,607	32,276	145,166
Five Year Average									
2012-2016	802,865	25,825	5,151	187,801	228,900	93,140	20,265	32,276	149,898
BEG Range	300,000 ^u	6,000		61,000	74,000	50,000 ^v	50,000		> 80,000 ^w
	600,000	13,000		136,000	152,000	104,000	120,000 ^w		
Interim Escapement Objective							22,000-49,000 ^x		70,000-104,000 ^y

-Continued-

Table 6.–Page 2 of 2.

Note: En dash indicates no data were collected or calculated. Yukon River mainstem sonar historical estimates were revised in 2016, using updated selectivity parameters.

^a Population estimate generated from replicate foot surveys and stream life data using AUC (area-under-curve) method unless otherwise indicated.

^b Peak counts from foot surveys unless otherwise noted.

^c Fall chum salmon passage estimate based on mark-recapture projects operated from 1995–2007 on the upper Tanana River and from 1999–2007 on the Kantishna River minus harvests, unless otherwise noted.

^d Split beam sonar estimate (1995–2006). DIDSON sonar (2007–present). Includes expansions to the end of the run.

^e Single beam sonar estimate (1993–2002), split beam sonar estimate (2003–2004), DIDSON sonar (2005–2012).

^f Weir located within the Canadian portion of the Porcupine River drainage. Late season adjustments have been made for the period when weir was not operating for most years.

^g Porcupine River Sonar is located near Canadian border, downstream of community of Old Crow. Includes expansions to the end of the run.

^h Estimated mainstem Canadian escapement derived from mark-recapture project minus Canadian mainstem harvest and excluding Canadian Porcupine River drainage escapement, unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ The passage estimate includes an additional 15,134 salmon that were estimated to have passed during 127 hours that the sonar was inoperable due to high water from August 29 until September 3, 1997.

^j Project ended early, sonar passage estimate was 18,652 (62% of normal run timing). The total sonar passage estimate, 30,083, was expanded to reflect the 1986–1999 average run timing through September 24.

^k Peak aerial survey counts.

^l Project ended on peak daily passage in 2003 due to late run timing, estimate was expanded based on run timing (87%) at Rapids.

^m BEG based on right bank only. Inseason right bank counts include 266,963, 106,397, 39,548, 35,912, 28,480, 49,080, and 72,746 in 2005 through 2009 and 2011 to 2012 respectively.

ⁿ Tanana River estimate is based on regression of Delta River 1995–2006 with estimate for Tanana River (Kantishna 1999–2007 and Upper Tanana 1995–2007 based on mark-recapture).

^o Estimated mainstem Yukon River Canadian escapement is derived from Eagle sonar estimate (expanded through October 18; 2008 to present) minus harvest from Eagle community upstream including Canadian harvests.

^p Project operated all or partial season, estimate was not usable.

^q Project ended early, estimate based on regression of Chandalar to Fishing Branch River plus Mainstem Border from 1995–2009.

^r Preliminary estimate based on regression of Tanana with mainstem Yukon River Canada from 1995 to 2012 excluding 2005.

^s Preliminary estimate based on regression of Fishing Branch River weir counts (1985–2012) to Sheenjek estimates from two bank operations in 1985–1987, 2005 to 2009, and 2011 to 2012 and remaining years were expanded using average 36% for second bank operations.

^t Data is preliminary.

^u Yukon River drainagewide sustainable escapement goal is assessed inseason using Pilot Station sonar estimates minus upstream estimated harvests. Post season run reconstruction uses harvest and escapements to determine whether the goal was achieved.

^v Escapement goal was discontinued in 2016.

^w Escapement goal as written in the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

^x Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) established 2008. Based on Bue and Hasbrock SEG method.

^y IMEG of 70,000 to 104,000 was established for 2010 to present is based on Canadian stock Ricker model which was to be reviewed after 2005 returns were completed.

Table 7.—Coho salmon passage estimates or escapement estimates for selected spawning areas, Yukon River drainage, 1997 to 2017.

Year	Yukon River Mainstem	Nenana River Drainage								Upper Tanana River Drainage									
	Sonar	Lost		Nenana		Wood		Seventeen		Delta		Clearwater		Richardson					
	Estimate	a	Slough	Mainstem	b	Creek	Mile	Slough	Clearwater	River	c	Lake and	Clearwater						
														Outlet	River				
1997	118,065		1,524	(h)	1,446	(h)	—	d	1,996	(h)	11,525	(b)	2,775	(b)	—				
1998	146,365		1,360	(h)	e	2,771	(h)	e	—	d	1,413	(g/b)	11,100	(b)	2,775	(b)	—		
1999	76,174		1,002	(h)	e	745	(h)	e	370	(h)	662	(h)	e	10,975	(b)	—	—		
2000	206,365		55	(h)	e	68	(h)	e	—	d	879	(h)	e	9,225	(b)	1,025	(b)	2,175	(h)
2001	160,272		242	(h)	859	(h)	699	(h)	3,753	(h)	27,500	(b)	4,425	(b)	1,531	(f)			
2002	137,077		0	(h)	328	(h)	935	(h)	1,910	(h)	38,625	(b)	5,900	(b)	874	(f)			
2003	280,552		85	(h)	658	(h)	3055	(h)	4,535	(h)	102,800	(b)	8,800	(b)	6,232	(h)			
2004	207,844		220	(h)	450	(h)	840	(h)	3,370	(h)	37,550	(b)	2,925	(b)	8,626	(h)			
2005	194,622		430	(h)	325	(h)	1030	(h)	3,890	(h)	34,293	(b)	2,100	(b)	2,024	(h)			
2006	163,889		194	(h)	160	(h)	634	(h)	1,916	(h)	16,748	(b)	4,375	(b)	271	(h)			
2007	192,406		63	(h)	520	(h)	605	(h)	1,733	(h)	14,650	(b)	2,075	(b)	553	(h)			
2008	145,378		1,342	(h)	1,539	(h)	578	(h)	1,652	(h)	7,500	(b)	1,275	(b)	265	(h)			
2009	—	f	410	(h)	—		470	(h)	680	(h)	16,850	(b)	5,450	(b)	155	(h)			
2010	177,724		1,110	(h)	280	(h)	340	(h)	720	(h)	5,867	(b)	813	(b)	1,002	(h)			
2011	149,533		369	(h)	—		—		912	(h)	6,180	(b)	2,092	(b)	575	(h)			
2012	130,734		—		106	(h)	—		405	(h)	5,230	(b)	396	(h)	515	(h)			
2013	110,515		721	(h)	—		55	(h)	425	(h)	6,222	(b)	2,221	(h)	647	(h)			
2014	283,421		333	(h)	378	(h)	649	(h)	886	(h)	4,285	(b)	434	(h)	1,941	(h)			
2015	121,193		242	(h)	1,789	(h)	1419	(h)	3,890	(h)	19,533	(b)	1,621	(h)	3,742	(h)			
2016	168,297		334	(h)	1,680	(h)	1327	(h)	2,746	(h)	6,767	(b)	1,421	(h)	1,350	(h)			
2017	166,320	g	1,278	(h)	862	(h)	2,025	(h)	1,942	(h)	9,627	(b)	—		—				
SEG h										5,200-17,000									
All Years																			
Average	166,865	f	528		830		867		1,919		19,671		2,784		1,910				
Five Year Average																			
2012-2016	162,832		408		988		863		1,670		8,407		1,219		1,639				

-Continued-

Table 7.–Page 2 of 2.

Note: Only peak counts presented. Survey rating is fair to good, unless otherwise noted. Denotations of survey methods include: (b)=boat, (f)=fixed wing, (g)=ground/foot, (h)=helicopter, and (u)=undocumented. En dash indicates no data available.

- ^a Passage estimates for coho salmon are incomplete. The sonar project is terminated prior to the end of the coho salmon run. Yukon River mainstem sonar historical estimates were revised in 2016, using updated selectivity parameters.
- ^b Index area includes mainstem Nenana River between confluence's of Lost Slough and Teklanika River.
- ^c Index area is lower 17.5 miles of system.
- ^d No survey of Wood Creek due to obstructions in creek.
- ^e Poor survey.
- ^f Project operated all or partial season, estimate was not usable.
- ^g Data is preliminary.
- ^h Sustainable escapement goal (SEG) established January 2004, (replaces BEG of greater than 9,000 fish established March, 1993) based on boat survey counts of coho salmon in the lower 17.5 river miles during the period October 21 through 27.

**Federal Subsistence Management Program
2018-2020 Wildlife Proposals**

Comment period open through August 4, 2017



WP18-29

Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Proposal

Moose- Unit 18 Remainder

Proposal Submission by:

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1. Regulation to be changed:

Current Regulation:

• Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of (but excluding) the Tuluksak River drainage- Resident of Unit 18, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall-Resident of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18 remainder- Residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag	Unit 18- that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance I not Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W 162°22.14' Longitude), continuing upriver along line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of Unit 18 boarder and then north of and including the Eek River drainage- 1 antler bull by State registration permit; quotas will be announced annually by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kwethluk, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskaik, Nunapitchak, Oscarville, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.	Sept. 1- 30
	Unit 18- south of and including the Kanektok River drainages to the	No Federal open season

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	Goodnews River drainage. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose.	
	Unit 18-Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit 18 boundary-1 antlered bull by State registration permit. Any needed closures will be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with BLM, ADF&G, and the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
	Unit 18 remainder-2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may not be harvested from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31

2. The regulation ONC would like to see as written:

- Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of (but excluding) the Tuluksak River drainage- Resident of Unit 18, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag - Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall-Resident of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag - Unit 18 remainder- Residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag	Unit 18- that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance I not Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W 162°22.14' Longitude), continuing upriver along line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of Unit 18 boarder and then north of and including the Eek River drainage- 1 antler bull by State registration permit; quotas will be announced annually by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kwethluk, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskaik, Nunapitchak, Oscarville, Tuluksak, and	Sept. 1- 30
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	Tuntutuliak.	
	Unit 18- south of and including the Kanektok River drainages to the Goodnews River drainage. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose.	No Federal open season
	Unit 18-Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit 18 boundary-1 antlered bull by State registration permit. Any needed closures will be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with BLM, ADF&G, and the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
	Unit 18 remainder-2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may not be harvested from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31 Apr. 30

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

ONC requests to change the date from March 31st to April 30th, in order to allow subsistence hunters more access to moose in the Unit 18 remainder. This proposal seeks to extend the hunting season by one month from the current closing date. This proposal would allow subsistence hunters to hunt moose in an area that is currently experiencing increased moose population growth. Additionally, this regulation change will allow subsistence hunters to take advantage of the longer days, warmer temperatures, and adequate snow conditions.

Historic Evidence / Traditional Knowledge:

According the Unit 18, Moose Management Report of 2011-2013, conducted by Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), reports of moose sightings began during the mid-to-late 1940s, provided witness accounts by the Yukon River local elders. This population remained in low numbers due to heavy hunting pressures from the Kuskokwim River communities. According to ADF&G, moose population estimate history of 1988, there was zero moose reported in the area. In the 1990s, local residents supported a moose hunting moratorium. Another survey was conducted that showed the population had increased to 674 in 2002 (Harper & McCarthy, 2014). Twenty years later, in 2008, the population increased to 3,230 (ADF&G, 2017). Nine years later, in 2017, the ADF&G conducted a survey that counted 8,950 (ADF&G, 2017). Combining the moose population of the two remaining lower Yukon River census areas, Andreafski and Paimiut, the estimated moose population is at a minimum of 17,295 (Runfola, Brenner, & Koster, 2014).

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Currently, the estimated moose population for the Kuskokwim River portion is 1,378. Therefore, the Kuskokwim area still remains a very limited hunting seasons with minimal opportunity for harvest. Therefore, emphasizes the very importance of Unit 18 remainder hunting opportunity for subsistence Moose harvest for both Yukon and Kuskokwim River residents (ADF&G, 2017).

Witnessed reports/concerns:

Moose are an a very important contributor to the subsistence diets of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta residents. According to Dave Runfola, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Subsistence, Bethel surveys that were conducted in 2011, reported a harvested a total of 279 Moose (150,481 lbs.) (Runfola, Brenner & Koster, 2014). These reports show that the subsistence users rely on the Unit 18 remainder winter hunts as an important contributor to their food security for the winter months.

According to hunter reports this year, it has been easier to access the moose in Unit 18 remainder winter hunts, on a reliable successful hunt than it is to obtain Caribou. As the current coarse terrain and lack of snowfall, many hunters have been choosing to go Moose hunting than going hunting for Caribou.

Various means and methods of transportation are utilized to harvest moose in Unit 18 remainder. Transportation methods includes the use of airplanes, snow machines, outboard motor boats and other forms of transportation. During the winter and early spring months, the use of snow machines and four-wheelers are used for transportation to hunt moose in the Unit 18 remainder.

Travel times may vary, depending on the weather and snow conditions. Some of hunters reported putting up camp to go hunting, because of the long distances needed to travel. Where some hunters reported to conduct a same day hunt, depending on the success of the hunt and ground conditions.

Many subsistence hunters have requested for the extension to harvest moose in Unit 18 remainder be extended to open till April 30th. Their major concern is needing the extra time to harvest a Moose. Due to the lack of snow, weather conditions, and coarse terrain conditions hunters have to wait for adequate snow levels to travel the far distances. There were many reports of subsistence hunters that weren't able to go hunting, because they missed the small window of adequate snowfall opportunity to harvest a moose.

Research:

According to the snowfall data, gathered from the *US Climate Data* website indicates the Bethel area average snows fall is 6-inches in the month of April. This amount is adequate for travel via snow machine or four-wheeler to access areas in Unit 18-remainder (US Climate Data, 2017).

In the month of April, daylight in Unit 18 begins to increase as the month progresses. On April 1, Unit 18 receives approximately 16-hours of daylight and on April 15, 18-hours of daylight (Alaska Channel, 2017). Hunters prefer the extended daylight when traveling the long distances to harvest a moose on the Yukon River. This allows them to rely on a day-trip versus having to camp overnight in winter conditions.

The average high temperature for the month of April in Bethel is 35 degrees Fahrenheit and the average low temperature is 19 degrees Fahrenheit (US Climate Data, 2017). These weather conditions allow a greater chance for snow fall to accumulate for longer periods of time on the ground. Creating adequate ground conditions to travel the long distance to harvest a Moose.

Conclusion:

1. ONC requests the open hunting season to be changed to April 30th. This change in regulation will allow subsistence hunters longer hunting seasons, the ease of access to the moose in Unit 18 remainder, and potential greater chances of successful hunts.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Moose populations in Unit 18 remainder will continue to remain high. This will allow more opportunity for moose hunters to harvest enough moose to curb the population and avoid a potential moose crash. Providing additional subsistence hunting opportunity would help decrease the population, protect the habitat from over grazing, and potential disease.

5. Additional Information:

How will this change affect subsistence users?

Extending the regulatory open moose hunting season to April 30th would provide additional hunting opportunity.

How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This proposal would not have any impact on other uses due to the high moose population in the Unit 18-remainder portion.

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Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Work cited:

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WP18-30**Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Regulatory Proposal**

Willow Ptarmigan

Proposal Submission by:

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1. Regulation to be changed:

Current Regulation:

Unit 18-Ptarmigan:	Harvest Limit	Open Season
All rural residents:	50 ptarmigan per day, 100 in possession	Aug. 10- May 30

2. The regulation ONC would like to see as written:

Proposed New Regulation:

Unit 18-Ptarmigan:	Harvest Limit	Open Season
All rural residents:	15 ptarmigan per day, 30 in possession	Aug. 10- March 31

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Historic Evidence/ Traditional Knowledge:

The most common and abundant species of ptarmigan in Unit 18 is the Willow ptarmigan. During a personal interview with a local elder, he addressed the ptarmigan use to be so abundant that the trees along the Kuskokwim River turned white (*W. Nick, personal communications, 2017*). The ptarmigan was so abundant during the migration they would consistently hit the wires in villages and people would harvest them. Ptarmigan use to flock together in the thousands allowing hunters to just pick off what they needed in one sitting. Ptarmigan were seen throughout the winter in the YK Delta, but more abundantly during migration season of February through March. Ptarmigan were abundantly seen throughout the year during all seasons: spring bird hunting season, fishing season, berry season, fall fishing season, moose hunting season, fall bird hunting season, lush and rabbit season, winter season, and back to spring season. Although, traditionally were mainly harvested during the migration season late winter to early-spring.

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Witnessed reports/ concern:

Ptarmigan are an important contributor to the diet of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta people before spring arrives. During the late winter prior to the major spring migratory birds, ptarmigan has been the first to migrate through this area. Over the recent years, many local hunters have witnessed and reported a significant decline in the abundance of ptarmigan. This year numerous hunters reported a huge decline in ptarmigan sightings across the YK Delta of extreme low numbers and flocks. They also reported having to drive farther distances to search for them, that many of the ptarmigan is mismatched color to their environment, and they witnessed a lot few small flocks with no sightings of big flocks that typically average 500-1000 birds. This has raised many concerns and questions about the current populations, harvest reports, and migration routing.

Research:

As more research is being conducted about the willow ptarmigan. They are certain through studies that ptarmigan has been declining with high natural mortality causes with an influence of human involvement of hunting. These reports and studies will be ready for review sometime in December. There are natural causes that factor into the decline of ptarmigan, such as color mismatch with their environment. Although, researchers are certain that the ptarmigan suffer a very high natural mortality rate through the summer and into the fall. The mortality rate tends to drop to a low level by January. These birds that survive through January are the main contributors to the active breeding season beginning of April and by mid-April (Carroll & Merizon, 2017; *Personal Interview, R. Merizon, 14 June 2017*).

Harvest change due to Chinook Salmon declines impact other species:

Even though these studies haven't been conducted yet. There still shows an increase in harvest among other fish and game throughout the YK Delta. Over the past 17 years, there has been a decline in Chinook Salmon harvest with low abundance returns. More regulations have been placed on the Chinook Salmon to the point of closing all fisheries for lengthy periods of time. The harvest on the Chinook Salmon has declined more drastically over the past five years, resulting in heavier harvest among other species and game.

Conclusion, utilizing precautionary management principles:

1. ONC requests a regulatory decrease in the harvest limits from 50 per day, 100 in possession to 15 per day, and 30 in possession. This will allow the ptarmigan to have a chance to bounce back in population and decrease the hunting pressure.

2. ONC request the regulatory change in the open season from May 30th to March 31st. This is to reduce hunting pressure on and during the active breeding season of April to mid-April.

4. Why should the regulation should be changed:

The regulation should be changed in hope to help increase the population abundance of the willow ptarmigan in the YK Delta area. Do to the increase of harvest pressure on the ptarmigan, lack of snow in the region, and decline in ptarmigan sightings. It would be a proactive approach to protecting the ptarmigan populations. By decreasing the bag and possession limits, the proposed regulation would add precautionary protections from the possibility of overharvesting ptarmigan.

5. Additional Information:

How will this change affect subsistence users?

This change will affect the subsistence users by reducing the harvest limits and hunting pressure on the ptarmigan. They would have to find other means of food source to supplement the decrease in ptarmigan harvests, as they did with the Chinook Salmon harvests. This approach is not preferred, but is do able by the consumers. In the understanding that a protection from overharvesting needs to be established. This change will ensure the needed biodiversity of ptarmigan to avoid other potential non-harvest related population crashes in the future.

How will this change affect other uses, such as sport, recreational and commercial?

Other users such as sport, recreational, and commercial will not be effected.

The majority of harvest in Unit 18 is from federally qualified subsistence users whom are primarily subsistence hunters. As far as we know, there isn't any licensed guide or sport/recreational hunters utilizing this species.

2018–2020 Wildlife Proposals

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Work Cited

Carroll, C.J. & Merizon, R.A. (2017) Status of Grouse, Ptarmigan, and Hare in Alaska, 2015 and 2016. *Wildlife Management Report ADF&G /DWC/WMR-2017-1*. (30).

WP18-31**Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Regulatory Proposal**

Caribou- Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH)

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1. What regulation do you wish to change?

Unit 18-residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, St. Michael, Stebbins, Togiak, Twin Hills, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag	Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
	Unit 18 – Remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15

2. How should the new regulation read?

Unit 18-residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, St. Michael, Stebbins, Togiak, Twin Hills, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag	Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 Feb. 28
	Unit 18 – Remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 Feb. 28

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Historic Evidence/Traditional Knowledge:

The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) currently inhabits Units 9b, 17, 18, 19a and 19b. Populations have historically ranged from an estimated 1,000 animals in 1949 to an unprecedented population of 200,000 animals in 1996 (Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2001). Since the significant peak in 1996, the MCH population started a precipitous decline to 27,242 animals today. According to a report provided to the Board of Game, by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), in January 2017, the population objective is 30,000–

80,000 animals. The current harvest is 193 animals (Harvest objective: 2,400– 8,000) current calf to cow ratios is 27:100 (calf to cow ratio objective 30:100). The Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) is 2,100– 2,400 and the identified harvestable surplus of 1,200 would not meet the ANS (ADF&G, 2017).

According to Yale Environment, the caribou populations across the arctic are suggested to be extremely susceptible to changes in climate. That global warming plays a major role in affecting their food source and their preferred habitat. It is also suggested that Arctic caribou populations are in a steep decline due to warming temperatures (Stuzik, 2010). Furthermore, in their literature from University of Alaska, *Global Climate Change Threatens Reindeer and Caribou*, states that global warming will have a significant impact on Caribou and Reindeer. That indigenous people have depended on Caribou and Reindeer for thousands of years for food and clothing (Science Daily, 2004). These fluctuations in population has played a huge part in the subsistence harvests and needs.

Caribou are an important contributor of food and cultural items for the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. According to Dave Runfola, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Subsistence, the Bethel residents harvested an estimated 446 Caribou (total weight of 57,963 lbs.) (Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2014). The harvest estimate of subsistence users is likely higher knowing subsistence harvest demands are greater by 75% of their hunting and fishing diet (Reitze & Reitze, 1975).

Witnessed reports/concerns:

Subsistence harvesters are concerned about the Caribou population will further decline if hunting continues with the current open season.

Hunters from this previous Caribou season have reported only seeing small herds that were scarce and scattered throughout the hunting grounds. Many have reported noticeable accounts that there is not as much Caribou in this area as there used to be. This year a hunter would be lucky if he/she was able to harvest just one Caribou. A few commented factors that contributed to this year's hunt that made it difficult were the environment conditions, weather conditions, and scarcity of Caribou. There were a large population of hunters that were not so fortunate this year to take time off from work or duties to go hunting. On the other hand, some hunters that went hunting during the short window of good snow conditions were successful in harvesting their allocated amount of Caribou.

One report from a hunter said that the Caribou herd seem a lot healthier this year. Although, in appearance many of them seem to be very skinny compared to any other previous years of hunting. In proof, the harvested Caribou didn't have much fat on either of them. He commented that a good probable cause would be from wolves constantly chasing and hunting them. In previous years, he noticed that the Caribou weren't as healthy and many of them were limping. During the big crash of Caribou roughly about 10 years ago, he noticed an outbreak of hoofrot (Kohl, *personal communications*, June 16, 2017). Hoofrot is a disease caused by bacterium, known as *Spherophorus necrophorus*, that causes Caribou to limp (ADFG, 2017).

Witness accounts of wolf predation on Caribou:

Daily hunters and trappers that passed through the caribou migration routes every day have reported seeing multiple Caribou kills by wolves. These kills weren't being eaten, but left untouched for weeks. Over the past 5 years, wolf number have increased in this particular migration area. For an example, one hunter reported that he would catch 5-10 wolves easily compared to previous years.

Environmental Conditions:

Hunters from the Kuskokwim area have reported hunting conditions to be very difficult due to the lack of snow. Many hunters reported having to hunt next to the hills, because they are concerned about destroying their snow-go's and running out of gas. Another relation with the lack of snow is the ground conditions. From the lack of snow fall there are many coarse bunches of grass throughout the terrain. The coarse terrain makes it difficult for hunters to follow the Caribou. Eventually, the Caribou out run the hunters to the point that they have only a lousy shot or they have gone too far of a distance to continue following.

Harvest Changes due to the Chinook Salmon crash of 2013:

Hunters from the Kuskokwim area have reported that there is so much hunting pressure on the caribou this year, but not as bad as the year the Chinook Salmon crash in 2013. Hunters have complained over the past years that there wasn't enough enforcement keeping an eye on the Caribou. During the hunting pressure after 2013-2014, people weren't respecting the bag limit and over harvesting the Caribou to sustain themselves throughout the winter. There were sightings, reports to tribal leaders, and conversations between people that witnessed this over hunting. Some of the reports were hunters witnessing other hunters taking down multiple accounts of Caribou and some take downs were an act of pure hunter's carelessness.

Research:

Recently with the political environment, both in federal and state, the wildlife research will likely decrease along with other publicly funded projects and programs. For the sake of our precious caribou resources, which has many different users spread across multiple game management units, it would be most advantageous to develop the following:

A Mulchatna Caribou Herd working group, such as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group. This working group will comprise of subsistence hunters, sport hunters, wildlife viewers, state and federal managers, and organizations of all GMU that rely on this Herd.

- This working group would direct research to be most beneficial for the Caribou. Such research will help in assessing population abundance, outreach, and proper regulatory changes when needed.
- A unified approach in establishing hunting seasons and harvest opportunities that will accommodate population stability and growth.
- Through this working group, we will be able to notify all users of changes, collect more harvest data and concerns, and allow adequate regulatory implementation.

Conclusion:

1. ONC requests that the Mulchatna Herd needs further protection to rebuild the population to meet population and ANS objectives.
2. ONC requests that ADFG/USFWS provide for more protection for Mulchatna Caribou Herd, especially the cows and calves.
3. ONC requests the regulation change from March 15th to February 28th.

4. Additional information:

a) What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This proposal main intent is to help rebuild the caribou to meet the population objectives and ANS objectives. This proposal will also provide an opportunity for cow's population number to increase allowing for more protection for their calves.

b) How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal would decrease subsistence hunting opportunity by 15 days. There are many hunters that have addressed their concerns about the population and requested for this change to take place. By supporting our subsistence users and their concerns about the current populations, we can work together to obtain the main objective of increasing Caribou population.

c) How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The Mulchatna Caribou herd, throughout its entire range, is closed to sport, recreation, and commercial hunting activities. This proposal would not impact other uses at this time.

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Struzick, E. (2010). A troubling decline in the caribou herds of the arctic. *Yale Environment*. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from http://e360.yale.edu/features/a_troubling_decline_in_the_caribou_herds_of_the_arctic

Science Daily. (2004). University of Alaska Fairbanks: Global climate change threatens reindeer, caribou. Retrieved, June 16, 2017, from <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/11/041115002833.htm>

WP18-51

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? Bear baiting restrictions §100.26(b)(14)(iii). We propose to align Federal and State bear baiting restrictions. Relevant State bear baiting restrictions are found in 5 AAC 92.085(4), 5 AAC 92.044(a), 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8), and 5 AAC 92.210.

Existing Federal Regulations

___.26(b) Prohibited methods and means. Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited:

* * * *

(14) Using bait for taking ungulates, bear, wolf, or wolverine; except you may use bait to take wolves and wolverine with a trapping license, and you may use bait to take black bears and brown bears with a hunting license as authorized in Unit-specific regulations at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section. Baiting of black bears and brown bears is subject to the following restrictions:

* * * *

(iii) You may use only biodegradable materials for bait; you may use only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and wildlife for bait;

Proposed Federal Regulations

___.26(b) Prohibited methods and means. Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited:

* * * *

(14) Using bait for taking ungulates, bear, wolf, or wolverine; except you may use bait to take wolves and wolverine with a trapping license, and you may use bait to take black bears and brown bears with a hunting license as authorized in Unit-specific regulations at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section. Baiting of black bears and brown bears is subject to the following restrictions:

* * * *

*(iii) You may use only biodegradable materials for bait; **if fish or game is used as bait, you may use only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and big game, the skinned carcasses of furbearers and fur animals, small game (including the meat, except the breast meat of birds), and unclassified game wildlife for bait may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish parts may not be used as bait. Scent lures may be used at registered bait stations;***

State Regulations

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

(a) A person may not establish a bear bait station to hunt bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

** * * **

(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or big game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions: The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

** * * **

(4) with the use of bait for ungulates and with the use of bait or scent lures for any bear, except that bears may be taken with the use of bait or scent lures as authorized by a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044;

5 AAC 92.210. Game as animal food or bait. A person may not use game as food for a dog or furbearer, or as bait, except for the following:

(1) the hide, skin, viscera, head, or bones of game legally taken or killed by a motorized vehicle, after salvage as required under 5 AAC 92.220;

(2) parts of legally taken animals that are not required to be salvaged as edible meat, if the parts are moved from the kill site;

(3) the skinned carcass of a bear, furbearer, or fur animal, after salvage as required under 5 AAC 92.220;

(4) small game; however, the breast meat of small game birds may not be used as animal food or bait;

(5) unclassified game;

(6) deleterious exotic wildlife;

(7) game that died of natural causes, if the game is not moved from the location where it was found; for purposes of this paragraph, "natural causes" does not include death caused by a human;

(8) game furnished by the state, as authorized by a permit under 5 AAC 92.040.

Why the regulation should be changed? The current Federal bear baiting restrictions are much more restrictive than the State's and do not provide for a Federal subsistence priority. The Eastern Interior Council proposes to align Federal and State bear baiting restrictions in order to reduce regulatory complexity, reduce user confusion, and allow baiting with items (i.e. dogfood, anise, popcorn, baked goods, grease, syrup, etc.) that have traditionally been used as bear bait by Federally qualified subsistence users and are currently permitted under State regulations.

DRAFT BOARD of GAME PROPOSAL:
MOOSE ANTLER SALES

AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST FORM
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Board of Game (board) will accept requests to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 92.005. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 92.005 (a) (2)].

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. The information submitted on the ACR form will be used to develop the proposal if accepted by the Board of Game.

1) CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. If possible, enter the series of letters and numbers that identify the regulation to be changed. If it will be a new section, enter “5 AAC NEW”. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 5AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game
2) WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Address only one issue. State the problem clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing issues. Mid-Lower Yukon communities have observed an increase in moose antler sales in their region (GMU 18). This has increased harassment of moose as people search for large bulls to harvest in order to sell the antlers. There is concern that the taking of large bulls and the harassment could be detrimental to the overall health of the moose, which local communities rely on for subsistence needs. Purchase of antlers and harvest of moose just for antler sales have increased wanton waste and teaches unethical and untraditional hunting practices to youth.
3) WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Or, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new or amended regulation say? 3 Options: -Prohibit the sale of all moose antlers in GMU 18. -Allow only the sale of shed moose antlers in GMU 18. -Prohibit the sale of moose antler larger than 45” in GMU 18
4) STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. If one or more of the three criteria set forth above is not applicable, state that it is not.
a) for a conservation purpose or reason: Click here to enter text.
b) to correct an error in regulation: Click here to enter text.
c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted: Current regulations have led to unforeseen social changes in villages along the Yukon River in GMU 18. Hunters have started selecting large bulls instead of the traditional younger animals, there has been an increase in theft of antlers from people’s homes, and people have been harassing bulls in early winter including chasing them through trees in an attempt to knock antlers off. People are prioritizing making money off of moose antlers over traditional hunting customs. There has been an increase in unethical and untraditional hunting practices in front of youth.

5) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Continued harassment and possible wanton waste of moose will continue. Bad habits and loss of traditional practices by youth.

6) STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This would affect all hunters that choose to hunt in the area of concern.

7) IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

8) STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. (e.g., hunter, guide, subsistence user, trapper, etc.)

The Mid-Lower Yukon AC is comprised of the Yukon River villages of Mountain Village, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russian Mission. The majority of the people residing in these communities are subsistence hunters and rely on moose for food security.

9) STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

We do not believe that this specific issue has been considered during prior Board of Game meetings, though a proposal was passed in 1990 to prohibit the sale of unmodified caribou antlers in Unit 23 and later modified to allow the sale of naturally shed antlers and handcrafts made from caribou antlers. In 2014 the BOG failed to support Proposal 28 during the Arctic/ Western Region meeting, which would have removed the restrictions on selling caribou antlers in Unit 23 once they had been removed from the skull.

Submitted by:

NAME Mid-Lower Yukon Advisory Committee

Individual or Group

Address

City, State

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Note: Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

DRAFT BOARD of GAME PROPOSAL:
MINIMUM CALIBER

AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST FORM
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Board of Game (board) will accept requests to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 92.005. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 92.005 (a) (2)].

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. The information submitted on the ACR form will be used to develop the proposal if accepted by the Board of Game.

1) CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. If possible, enter the series of letters and numbers that identify the regulation to be changed. If it will be a new section, enter “5 AAC NEW”. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 5AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts in Unit 18.
2) WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Address only one issue. State the problem clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing issues. Moose are a primary food source for many subsistence users in Unit 18. Users rely on the meat for food security. Moose are lost each year because of small caliber and low quality ammunition that are ineffective in killing big game such as moose. While smaller calibers such as 223 Remington, 17 Remington or 22-250 may be adequate for smaller game they lead to wounding and loss of moose. Many hunters have observed expired, or wounded, moose resulting from several shots using inadequate caliber size and ammunition. Others have observed, in successfully harvested moose, infected flesh wounds that are “pussy” and, as a result, large portions or the entire moose are unfit for human consumption. Using a caliber of .243 or larger would minimize this waste and encourage ethical moose hunting and salvage practices.
3) WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Or, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new or amended regulation say? Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts in Unit 18 as .243 or larger.
4) STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. If one or more of the three criteria set forth above is not applicable, state that it is not.
a) for a conservation purpose or reason: Click here to enter text.
b) to correct an error in regulation: Click here to enter text.
c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted: The current regulation allows for small and inadequate caliber and ammunition to be used for hunting

moose that results in wounding, loss and lots of wasted meat.

5) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Cotinued wanton waste and non-leathal, but harmful, injuries to moose will continue.

6) STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This would affect all hunters that choose to hunt moose in GMU 18

7) IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

8) STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. (e.g., hunter, guide, subsistence user, trapper, etc.)

The Mid-Lower Yukon AC is comprised of the Yukon River villages of Mountain Village, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russion Mission. The majority of the people residing in these communities are subsistence hunters and rely on moose for food security.

9) STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

Yes, in 2016 during the Statewide Board of Game meeting it was considered as Proposal 72.

Submitted by:

NAME Mid-Lower Yukon Advisory Committee
Individual or Group

Address

City, State

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Note: Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Background: Minimum Caliber

March 18-26, 2016 BOG Statewide Meeting Summary of Minimum Caliber Proposals

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.
Establish minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts as

follows: Must use any caliber .243 or larger for hunting moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High wounding and loss of game.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Crace(EG-C15-007)

BOG Summary:

F 72. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.
Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts as

follows: Use any caliber .243 or larger for caribou.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost or wounded animals

PROPOSED BY: Tim Crace(EG-C15-008)

BOG Summary

NA 73. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts.

The board took no action due to their action on proposal 72.

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.
Establish minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts as

follows: Use any caliber .243 or larger for black and brown bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost or wounded animals

PROPOSED BY: Tim Crace(EG-C15-009)

BOG Summary:

NA 74. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts.
The board took no action due to their action on proposal 72.

Background: Minimum Caliber

MLY AC minutes presented at the 2016 BOG Statewide
meeting

RC 032

Mid-Lower Yukon fish and Game Advisory Committee

Mountain Village, Alaska



I am Paul Beans from Mountain Village on the lower Yukon River. I represent the Mid-Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Villages that the committee consists of are Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Pitka's Point, Pilot Station, Marshall, and Russian Mission.

We met on December 18, 2015 and discussed the following Proposals:

1. Proposal 5- Passed 7-0- Must salvage all edible meat from the migratory birds. We do not want wanton waste on all edible meat that is harvested.
2. Proposal 17- Passed 5-2. Although we discourage use of bows and arrows in our area, we would like have Hunter education be required for all Bow Hunters and evidence of the education certificate.
3. Proposal 72- Passed 7-0. Require minimum 243 caliber for big game like moose due to high loss of wounded animals. There are incidents in our area that a hunter kills a moose that is wounded and is all pussed up. We need to minimize losses of big game shot with a small caliber rifle. Some losses are sometimes unavoidable though.
4. Proposal 73- passed 7-0. Same as proposal 72.
5. Proposal 74- passed 7-0. Same as proposal 72.
6. Proposal 79- Opposed 0-7. Weather is a factor at times and traps cannot be checked every 24 hours. We cannot require trappers to check traps and jeopardize their life trying to check traps when the weather is really bad.
7. Proposal 126- Passed 7-0. There are quite a lot of moose in unit 18 and we support this proposal. It is good we are able to take antlerless moose in our area, meat is so expensive in the Village stores.
8. Proposal 131- Passed 7-0. There are residents that hunt brown bear for subsistence and exemptions must be in place for tags.

Comment: We have a lot of moose in unit 18 at the present time. There was a five year moratorium in the 1990's for taking moose, It worked. Now there is Sport hunting in unit 18 in September of each year. A couple of subsistence hunters have run into sport Hunters and they are not too good meetings. There are complaints of bad attitude by the people that come in to hunt in our area. We live here and do not want to be bothered or hurt or compete with sport Hunters. We have no count as to how many moose are killed by the sport hunters each year in unit 18.

*** This is from our elders. The giant moose are the breeders and must be kept alive for the future generation of moose in any area.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST POLICY

Because of the volume of proposed regulatory changes, time constraints, and budget considerations, the boards must limit their agendas. The boards attempt to give as much advance notice as possible on what schedule subjects will be open for proposals. The following regulations specify how the Board of Game considers agenda change requests (5 AAC 92.005):

5 AAC 92.005. Policy for changing board agenda. (a) The Board of Game (board) may change the board's schedule for considering proposed regulatory changes in response to an agenda change request, submitted on a form provided by the board, in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (1) an agenda change request must be to consider a proposed regulatory change outside the board's published schedule and must specify the change proposed and the reason the proposed change should be considered out of sequence. An agenda change request is not intended to address proposals that could have been submitted by the deadline scheduled for submitting proposals.
 - (2) the board will accept an agenda change request only
 - a. for a conservation purpose or reason;
 - b. to correct an error in a regulation; or
 - c. to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted;
 - (3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling;
 - (4) a request must be received by the executive director of the boards support section at least 60 days before the first regularly scheduled meeting of that year;
 - (5) if one or more agenda change requests have been timely submitted, the board shall meet to review the requests within 30 days following the submittal deadline in subsection (4), and may meet telephonically for this purpose.
- (b) The board may change the board's schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes as reasonably necessary for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal agencies, programs, or laws.

Note: The form in 5 AAC 92.005 is available on the Board of Game webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.forms or by contacting the Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section office (907) 465-4110.

Updated July 2015