

An Ethnographic Overview of the Yukon River Salmon Subsistence Fisheries



Oral report to the Board
January 2023

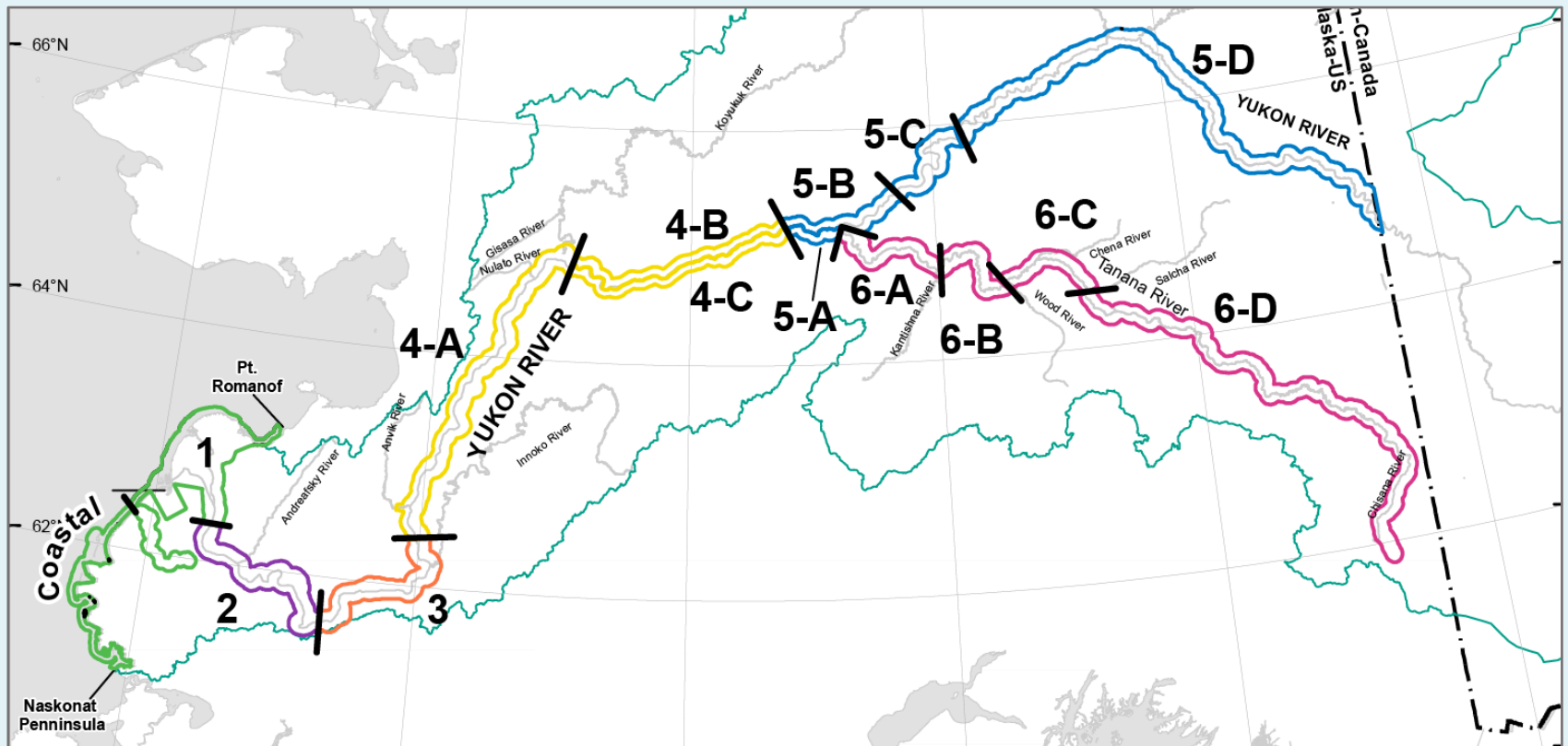
Dr. Jesse Coleman
Division of Subsistence

Overview

- Introduction
- Fishing practices along the river
- Summary of subsistence harvests
- Ethnographic findings
- Conclusions



Introduction to the Yukon River



Introduction to the Yukon River

- Long-term reliance on salmon as a primary food source

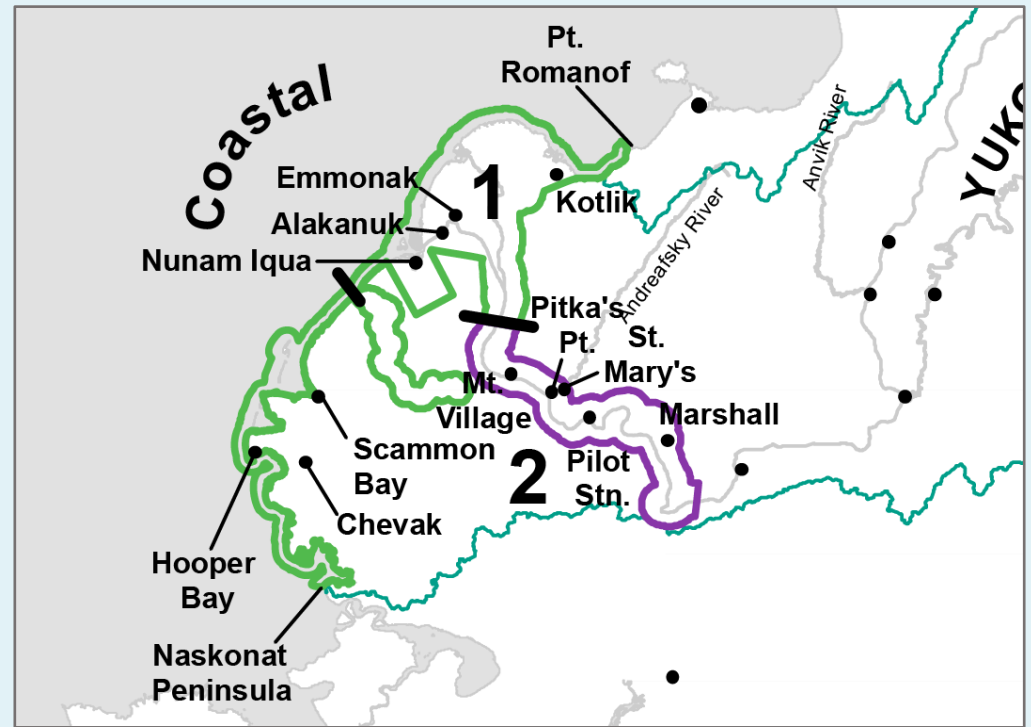


Introduction to the Yukon River

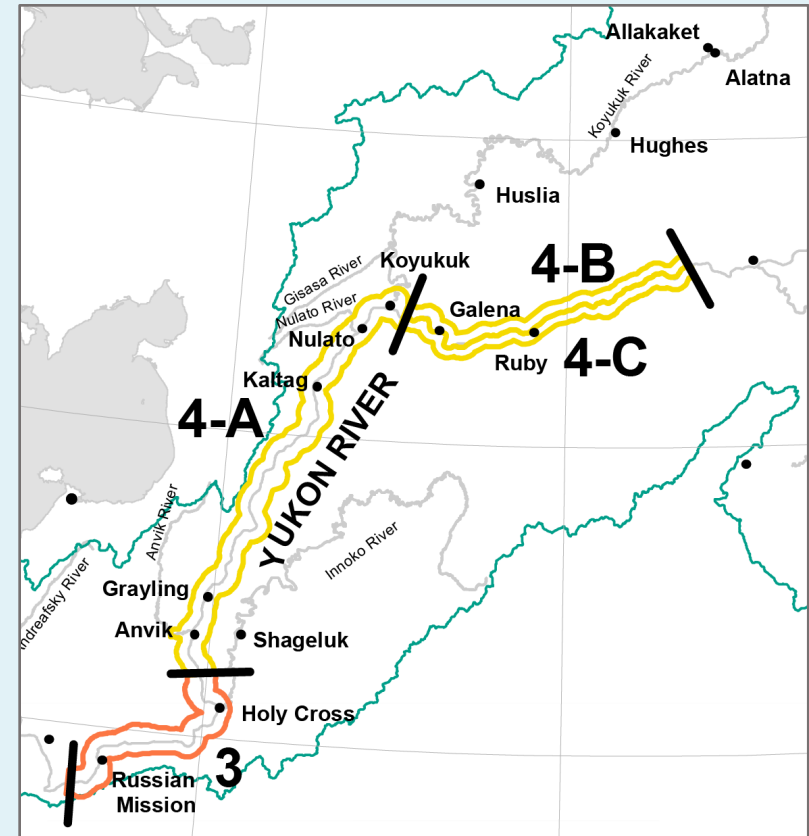
- Historic reliance on salmon as a primary food source
- 53 rural communities throughout the drainage



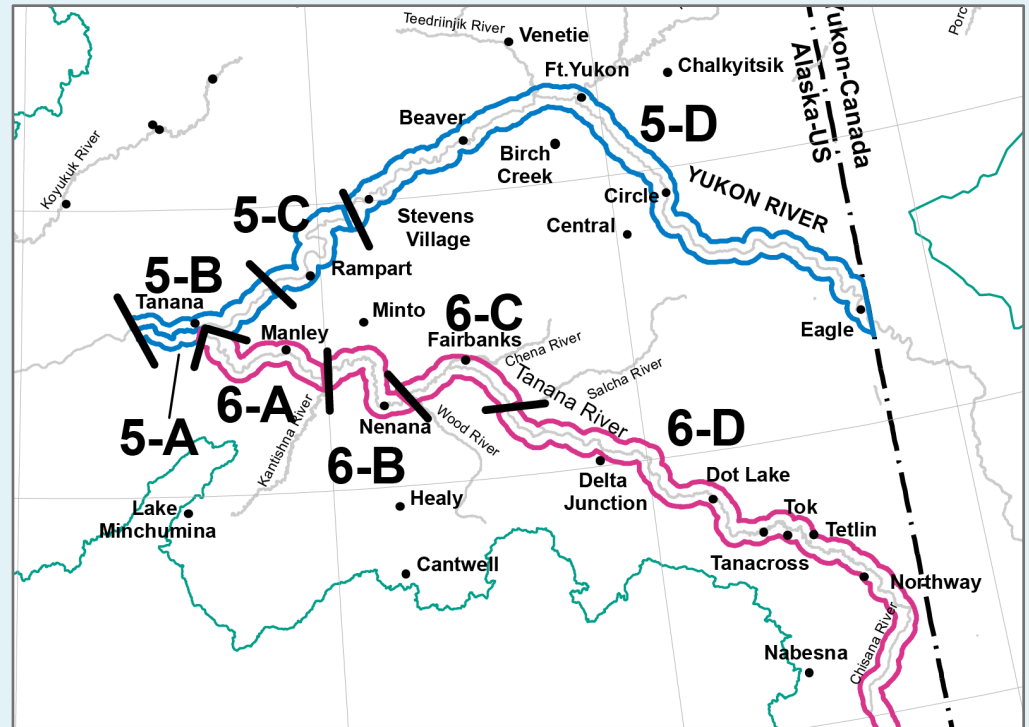
Fishing gear and methods: Lower river



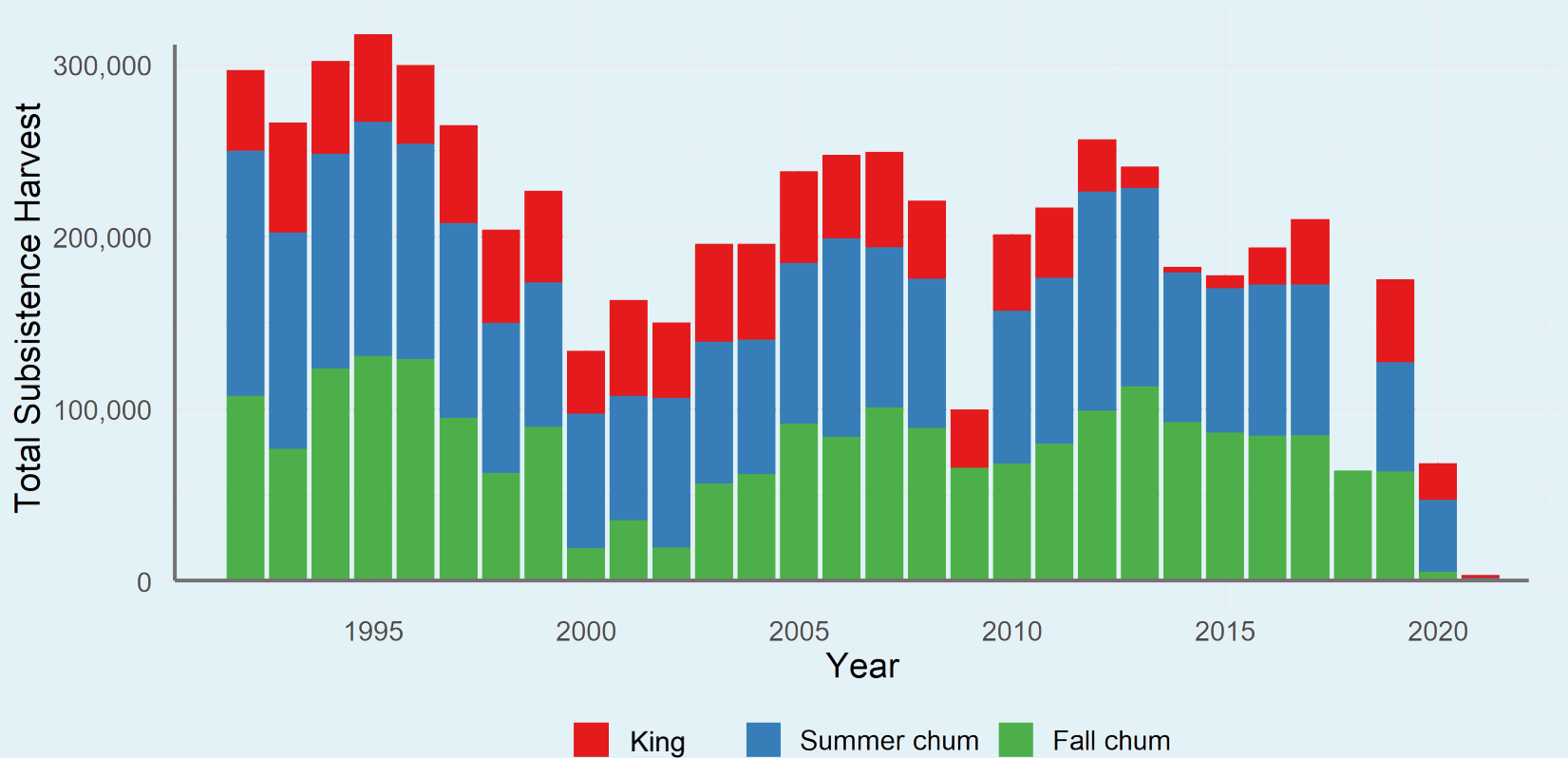
Fishing gear and methods: Middle river



Fishing gear and methods: Upper river



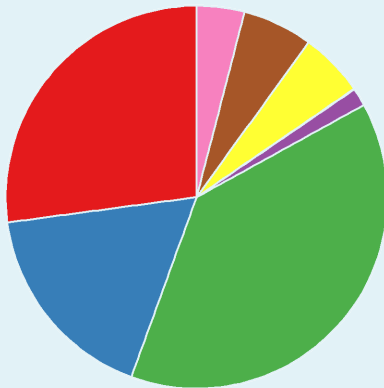
Subsistence harvests, 1992-2021



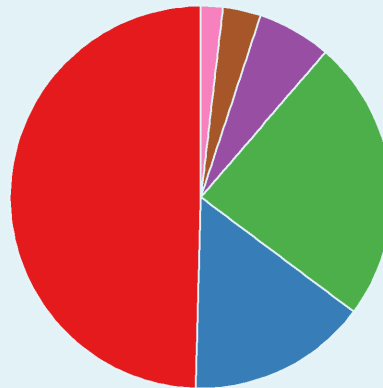
Padilla et al. 2020

Subsistence harvests, all resources

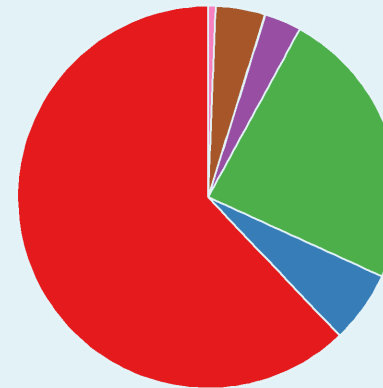
Pilot Station, 2013



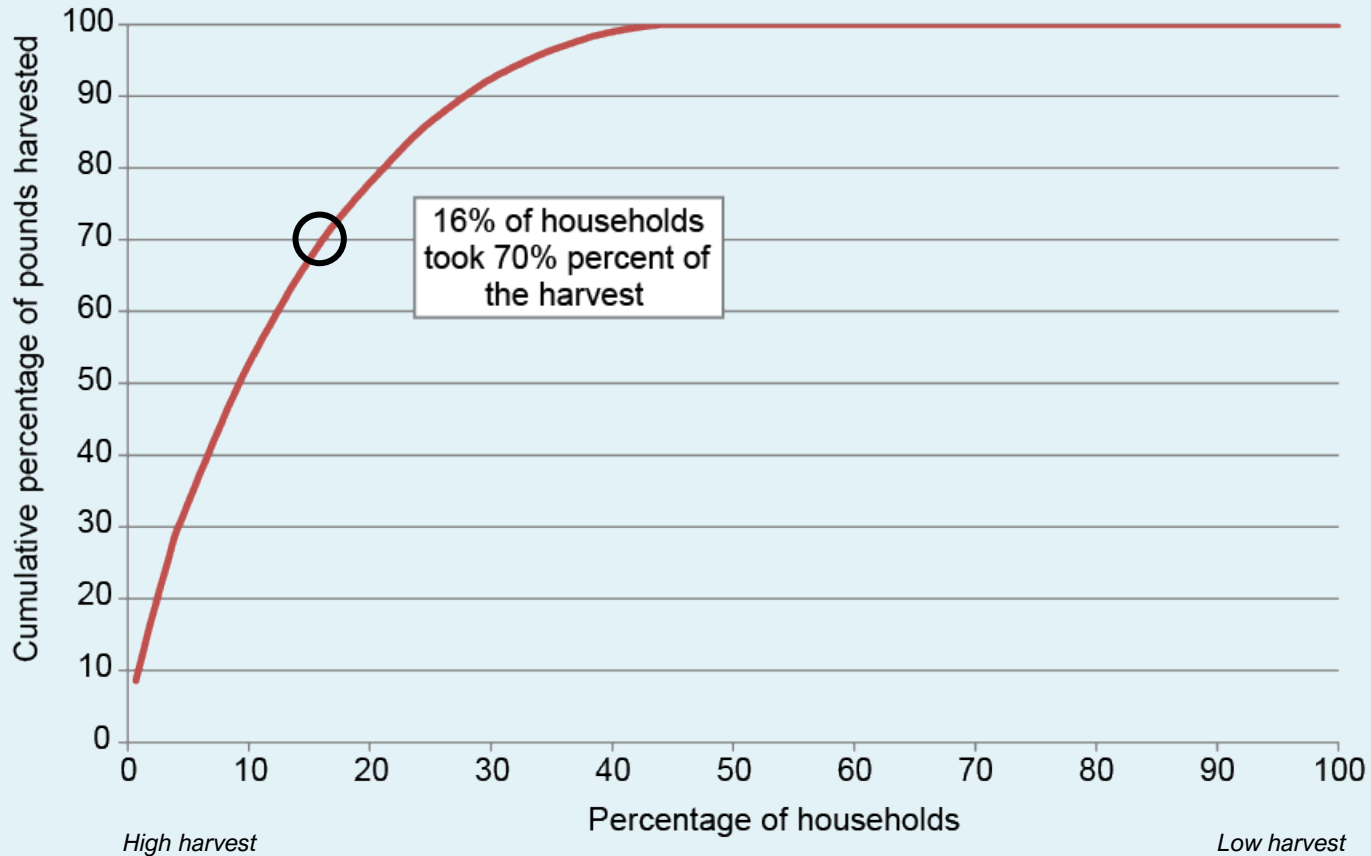
Grayling, 2011



Fort Yukon, 2017



Subsistence salmon networks



Pilot Station, 2018
From Trainor et al. 2021

Ethnographic findings

- Regulations

- Gear restrictions meant many people did not fish (Brown et al. 2015)

- Species replacement and alternative resources (Hansen et al. 2013)

- Not always available or accessible because of harvest timing, specialization, expense

- Impacts to customary and traditional uses

- Fish camps (Brown et al. 2015)
 - Dog teams (Trainor et al. 2020)



Final thoughts

- Salmon is a vital resource for social, cultural, economic, and food security reasons on the Yukon River
- King salmon declines continue to affect cultural, nutritional wellbeing
- Chum salmon declines have increased sense of insecurity, decreased solidarity
- Concern about impacts of other fisheries on Yukon stocks

Questions?

