

Figure 1. Map of Yukon River Drainage showing locations of study communities

In May 2011, ADF&G Subsistence staff came to **Mountain Village** to conduct a comprehensive subsistence survey. ADF&G Subsistence staff administered similar surveys in **Galena, Ruby, Nulato, and Marshall** to fill regional data gaps by producing up-to-date harvest estimates for Yukon River communities (Figure 1).

Residents who participated in the study answered questions about their household's harvest and use of subsistence. Households were asked to report harvest levels of subsistence resources and other details such as when they harvested a resource, where, and whether they also gave some away or received some from other households.

ADF&G Subsistence Division hired residents of Mountain Village as local researchers to assist with surveys. In total they talked to 115 out of 181 households (64%). Expanding for unsurveyed households, approximately 207,765 edible lb of wild foods were harvested by 430 residents between January and December 2010. The average harvest per household was an estimated

Mountain Village

Subsistence Harvests in 2010

115 surveyed households in Mountain Village reported harvesting a variety of fish, wildlife, and plants. Expanding for the 66 unsurveyed households, Mountain Villages's estimated total harvest was 207,765 pounds. Harvests averaged 1,148 pounds per household and 265 pounds per person.

1,148 lb of wild foods; the average harvest per person was 265 lb.

Of the households in Mountain Village, 100% of households used some kind of wild food, and 97% reported they harvested at least one subsistence resource. Figure 2 shows the top 10 species harvested by weight. Large land mammals (47,595 lb used by 97% of households) and fish species including summer chum (47,393 lb used by 77% of households) and Chinook salmon (20,756 lb used by 85% of households) made up the bulk of Mountain Villages' total harvest.

Figure 4 shows the estimated edible pounds harvested in each of the 6 resource categories. As a resource category, salmon species were more heavily harvested than the other 5 categories with 87,921 edible pounds harvested in 2010, nearly double the pounds of land mammals harvested (49,680 lb). In terms of pounds, non-salmon species were harvested to a lesser extent (43,417 lb) while marine mammals including seals and beluga whales contributed 11,408 edible lb to the total community harvest. Vegetation and birds and eggs contributed 7,821

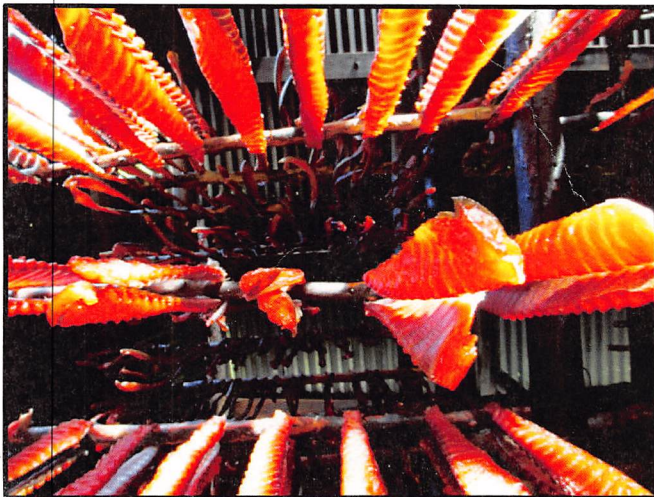


Plate 1. salmon strips in smoke house.

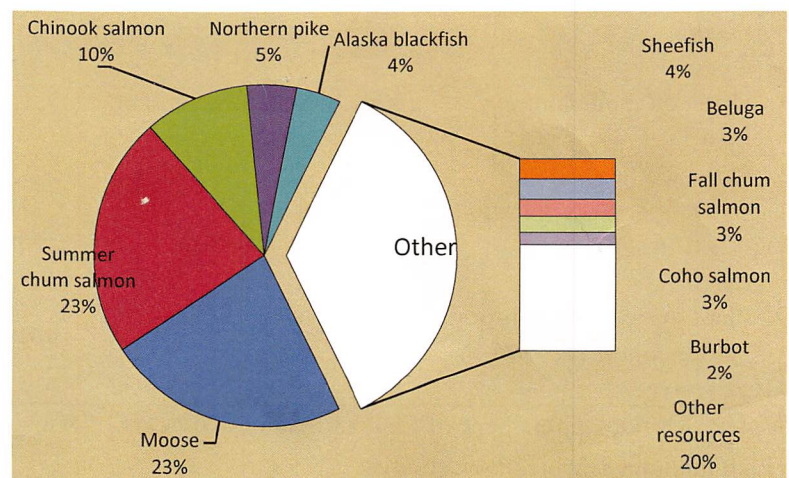


Figure 2. Top 10 subsistence foods by edible weight, 2010.

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED HARVESTS OF SUBSISTENCE FOODS, Mountain Village, 2010.

	Percentage of households		Estimated pounds harvested			Total estimated amount harvested by	95% conf. limit
	Using	Harvesting	Total for community	Mean per household	Mean per capita		
Fish							
Chum Salmon	83%	52%	58,197.0 lb.	321.5 lb.	74.1 lb.	11,447.5 ind.	18.6%
Coho Salmon	39%	21%	6,000.9 lb.	33.2 lb.	7.6 lb.	1,134.9 ind.	31.5%
Chinook Salmon	85%	52%	20,755.8 lb.	114.7 lb.	26.4 lb.	2,198.9 ind.	17.8%
Sockeye Salmon	7%	5%	1,586.3 lb.	8.8 lb.	2.0 lb.	314.8 ind.	113.6%
Rainbow Smelt	13%	0%	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 ind.	0.0%
Alaska Blackfish	38%	11%	8,751.5 lb.	48.4 lb.	11.1 lb.	8,751.5 ind.	87.0%
Burbot	57%	26%	4,539.7 lb.	25.1 lb.	5.8 lb.	1,891.6 ind.	30.0%
Arctic Grayling	18%	13%	337.1 lb.	1.9 lb.	0.4 lb.	481.6 ind.	36.4%
Northern Pike	63%	43%	9,790.4 lb.	54.1 lb.	12.5 lb.	2,175.6 ind.	25.3%
Sheefish	55%	32%	7,843.8 lb.	43.3 lb.	10.0 lb.	1,307.3 ind.	27.1%
Broad Whitefish	62%	37%	3,605.0 lb.	19.9 lb.	4.6 lb.	2,575.0 ind.	23.0%
Least Cisco	17%	9%	425.0 lb.	2.3 lb.	0.5 lb.	425.0 ind.	52.2%
Humpback Whitefish	44%	25%	4,405.4 lb.	24.3 lb.	5.6 lb.	1,468.5 ind.	29.8%
Round Whitefish	9%	3%	82.6 lb.	0.5 lb.	0.1 lb.	165.3 ind.	71.7%
Other Fish ¹	63%	29%	5,017.1 lb.	27.7 lb.	6.4 lb.	4,610.4 ind.	46.1%
fish subtotal	97%	67%	131,337.6 lb.	725.6 lb.	167.2 lb.	38,947.8	18.8%
Land Mammals							
Black Bear	2%	0%	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 ind.	0.0%
Caribou	6%	0%	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 ind.	0.0%
Moose	97%	42%	47,595.1 lb.	263.0 lb.	60.6 lb.	88.1 ind.	14.3%
Beaver	14%	9%	1,345.7 lb.	7.4 lb.	1.7 lb.	96.0 ind.	73.5%
Snowshoe Hare	27%	18%	515.5 lb.	2.8 lb.	0.7 lb.	263.6 ind.	37.7%
Muskrat	2%	2%	4.7 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	6.3 ind.	94.3%
Porcupine	3%	2%	6.3 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	3.1 ind.	119.6%
Other Land Mammals	17%	11%	212.5 lb.	1.2 lb.	0.3 lb.	174.7 ind.	65.4%
land mammals subtotal	97%	50%	49,679.8 lb.	274.5 lb.	63.3 lb.	631.9 ind.	14.0%
Marine mammals							
Spotted Seal	23%	7%	969.5 lb.	5.4 lb.	1.2 lb.	17.3 ind.	46.3%
Walrus	3%	0%	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 lb.	0.0 ind.	0.0%
Other Marine Mammals	73%	15%	10,438.2 lb.	57.7 lb.	13.3 lb.	42.5 ind.	43.2%
marine mammals subtotal	74%	17%	11,407.7 lb.	63.0 lb.	14.5 lb.	59.8 ind.	40.2%
Birds and eggs							
Ducks	52%	34%	782.4 lb.	4.3 lb.	1.0 lb.	986.7 ind.	40.2%
Geese	77%	55%	2,907.0 lb.	16.1 lb.	3.7 lb.	1,525.7 ind.	17.5%
Upland Game Birds	54%	41%	1,688.6 lb.	9.3 lb.	2.2 lb.	1,696.2 ind.	26.9%
Bird Eggs	21%	9%	146.0 lb.	0.8 lb.	0.2 lb.	583.9 ind.	57.5%
Other Birds	48%	30%	1,994.8 lb.	11.0 lb.	2.5 lb.	209.1 ind.	24.4%
birds and eggs subtotal	82%	62%	7,519.0 lb.	41.5 lb.	9.6 lb.	5,001.6 ind.	19.6%
Vegetation							
Berries	91%	89%	6,612.0 lb.	36.5 lb.	8.4 lb.	1,653.0 ind.	12.8%
Plants/Greens/Mushrooms	67%	63%	1,208.8 lb.	6.7 lb.	1.5 lb.	888.2 ind.	27.9%
vegetation subtotal	96%	96%	7,820.8 lb.	43.2 lb.	10.0 lb.	3,630.4 ind.	12.7%
All resource	100%	97%	207,764.9 lb.	1,147.9 lb.	264.5 lb.	48,271.5	15.2%

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence household surveys, 2011.

¹ Fish includes marine invertebrates

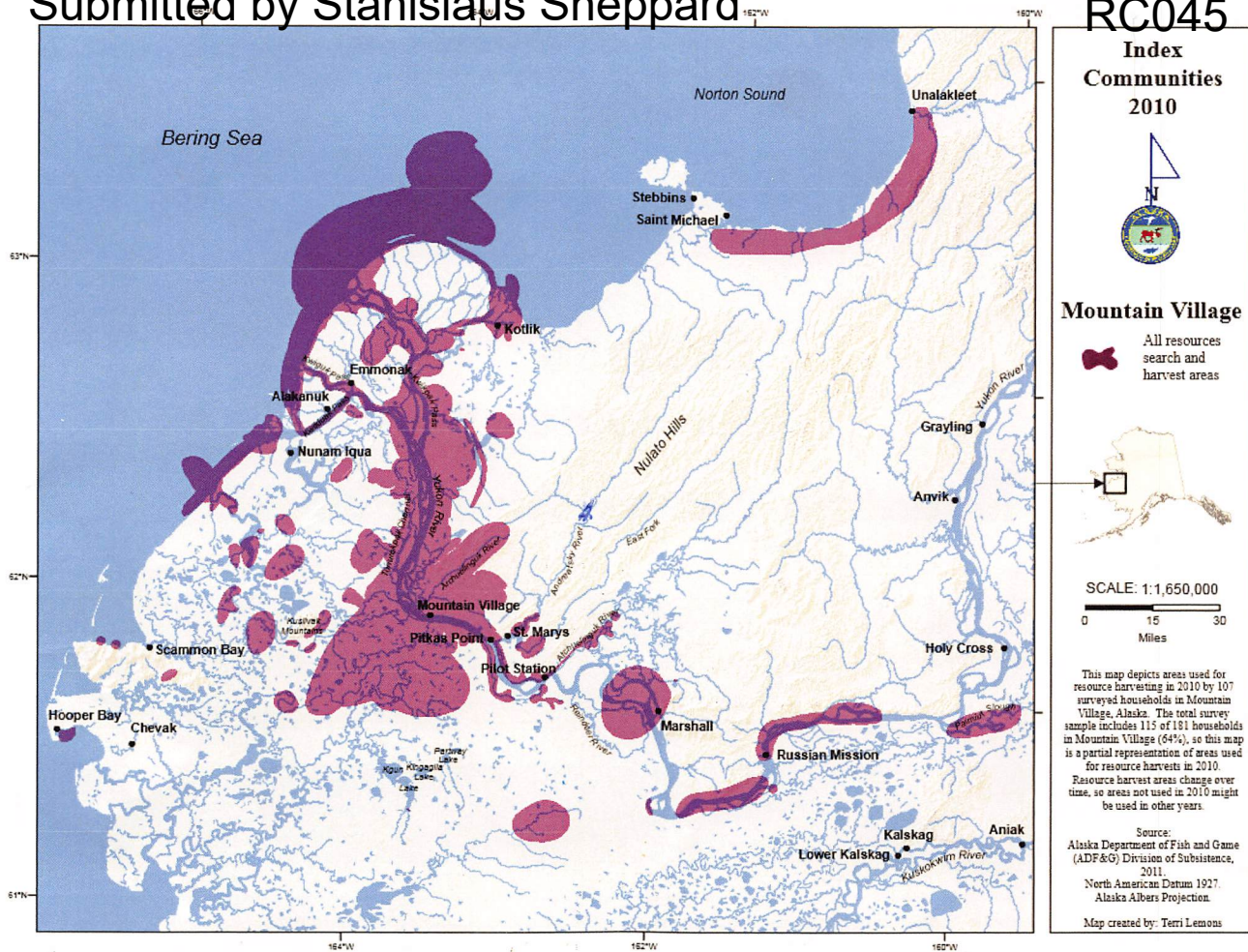


Figure 3. Subsistence food search areas and harvest locations, Mountain Village, 2010.

and 7,519 edible lb respectively. No households reported harvesting marine invertebrates. Respondents were asked to show on a map where they searched for the wild foods they harvested (Figure 3). In 2010, Mountain Village residents used a total of 4,636 square miles for subsistence. Respondent reported traveling from the mouths of the Yukon River delta to areas as far upriver as Paimiut Slough. They utilized extensive areas of the Bering Sea coast extending from Hooper Bay in the south to Unalakleet in the north, as well as inland tundra areas near Mountain Village and other neighboring communities for subsistence. One portion of the survey asked respondents to identify the households with which they shared, bartered or traded wild foods with them. The survey also asked households to identify who hunted, gathered or help process the foods they used. These sharing networks are captured in Figure X. Food exchanges occurred between Mountain Village households, and many households reported receiving food from other communities around Alaska.

Despite the high percentage of households harvesting subsistence resources, exchanging food was still common. Eighty-three percent of households gave some of their food away while 98% reported receiving some food from others. The high rates of exchange illustrate the interconnectedness of individuals and families and the cooperative nature of subsistence activities in Mountain Village.

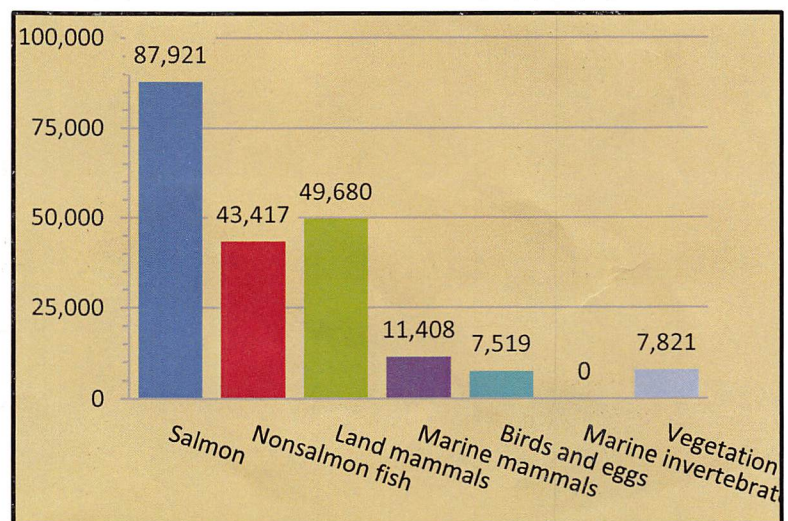


Figure 4. Estimated pounds harvested by category, 2010.

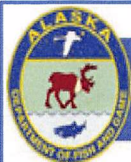
Submitted by Stanislaus Sheppard
Division of Subsistence
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
1300 College Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99701

RC045

RSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
Permit No. 69

ECRWSS
Box Holder
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632

Acknowledgements: *We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the people of Galena, Ruby, Nulato, Mountain Village and Marshall in 2010 for their time, knowledge, input, and patience that were essential to this research.*
Quyana and Tsen'an!



DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

Caroline Brown
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-328-6116

Hiroko Ikuta, Ph.D.
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-328-6122

ADF&G complies with OEO requirements as posted at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.oeostatement>.