

# Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence Research Update

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# Yukon Comprehensive Harvest Surveys

**Funder:** Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation Fund, NOAA 2020 & 2021 Chum Salmon Disaster Fund

**Purpose:**

- Fill Data Gaps
- Update harvest data

**Work to date:**

- 2022: Hooper Bay, Chevak (*Published*)
- 2023: Huslia and Koyukuk (*Published*)
- 2024: Alakanuk and Kotlik (*Published*)
- 2025: Ruby and Holy Cross (*Expected Publication: September 2026*)
- 2026: Nunam Iqua and Rampart (*Upcoming*)



# Understanding of Humpback Whitefish and other Nonsalmon Fishes in the Upper Koyukuk Region

**Funder:** OSM

**Partner:** Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Purpose:**

- Update TEK and Harvest and use of nonsalmon fish by Allakaket and Alatna Residents
- Describe demographic compositions of spawning humpback whitefish populations in the Alatna River and South Fork Koyukuk River

**Communities:** Allakaket and Alatna

***Project Complete, June 2025***

**Citation:** Coleman, J. M., B. Fisher, B. Lepping, N. Farnham, C. Somerville, B. McDavid, and L. Navarro. 2025. Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Subsistence Harvest and Use, and Biological Assessment of Humpback Whitefish and Other Nonsalmon Fish in the Upper Koyukuk River Region, Alaska, 2023. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 513, Fairbanks.



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference



# Investigating Ceremonial Harvest of Game Populations in Alaska

**Funder:** Pittman-Roberson Funds

**Purpose:**

- Compile existing ceremonial harvest data
- Document regional ceremonial practices
- Design and implement a robust outreach program

**Work to date:**

- June 2024 – February 2025: Interviewed DWC Area Biologists
- March 2025: Kaltag Stickdance

**Upcoming:**

- Compile and analyze existing harvest data
- Participate and attend additional potlatch ceremonies throughout the State
  - Aniak, McGrath, and Nikolai



# Natural Indicators of Salmon in the Upper Kuskokwim River

**Funder:** USFWS Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)

**Purpose:**

- Document local and traditional ecological knowledge of salmon natural indicators in upper Kuskokwim River communities
- Review historical abundance, distribution, and health of salmon populations
- Build relationships between local communities and governmental entities

**Communities:** McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai

**Work to date:**

- June 2022: Data collection began
- Summer and Fall 2023: Additional fieldwork conducted
- 2024: Interviews analyzed
- 2025/26: Report writing and community data reviews



# Kuskokwim Management Area Postseason Salmon Harvest Survey Project

**Funder:** OSM

**Background:** Conducted since 1960; DFG/ONC 20+ years

**Purpose:** To estimate subsistence salmon harvest in Kuskokwim River drainage communities

**Sampling:**

- **2025 season:**
  - In-person: 24 communities, 1,363 surveys complete (including Bethel)
  - Phone Follow-Up: 8 communities, 17 surveys
  - Bethel: Simple random sample of 25% of households achieved, 508 surveys complete
  - Final salmon harvest numbers are in draft status and still being finalized. They will be available in the final technical report on the ADFG website

# Preliminary Estimates For Kuskokwim Area Salmon Harvests 2025

- **Lower River Total:**  
149,504 salmon (+/- 12,077)

- **Middle River Total:**  
9,021 (+/- 1,054)

- **Upper River Total:**  
6,236 salmon (+/- 2,785)

- **Kuskokwim River Total:**  
164,760 salmon (+/- 12,345)

- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**  
176,061 salmon (+/- 12,362)

Table. Preliminary estimates for Kuskokwim Area salmon subsistence harvests, 2025.

| Community                                | Chinook       |              | Chum          |              | Sockeye       |              | Coho          |              | Pink       |            | Total <sup>d</sup> |               |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
|  | Estimate      | CI +/-       | Estimate   | CI +/-     | Estimate           | CI +/-        |
| Tunituliak <sup>a</sup>                  | 2,734         | 1,799        | 1,270         | 973          | 2,785         | 2,089        | 272           | 243          | -          | -          | 7,061              | -             |
| Eek <sup>a</sup>                         | 1,939         | 1,400        | 704           | 523          | 1,209         | 934          | 471           | 379          | -          | -          | 4,322              | -             |
| Kasigluk                                 | 1,095         | 259          | 994           | 268          | 1,941         | 424          | 349           | 206          | 0          | 0          | 4,379              | 893           |
| Nunapitchuk                              | 2,211         | 361          | 1,876         | 280          | 2,031         | 305          | 512           | 183          | 18         | 14         | 6,648              | 961           |
| Atmauthiak                               | 912           | 194          | 1,196         | 398          | 1,711         | 388          | 199           | 56           | 17         | 34         | 4,035              | 949           |
| Napakiak                                 | 1,698         | 745          | 1,280         | 483          | 1,811         | 706          | 765           | 342          | 8          | 9          | 5,562              | 1,979         |
| Napaskiak                                | 1,966         | 391          | 1,539         | 304          | 3,193         | 594          | 639           | 232          | 6          | 9          | 7,343              | 1,249         |
| Oscarville                               | 174           | 93           | 225           | 88           | 593           | 316          | 81            | 61           | 0          | 0          | 1,074              | 514           |
| Bethel                                   | 26,320        | 4,078        | 13,714        | 2,297        | 28,216        | 3,900        | 11,805        | 2,106        | 181        | 131        | 80,237             | 10,065        |
| Kwethluk                                 | 2,289         | 319          | 1,160         | 195          | 2,497         | 357          | 744           | 142          | 7          | 4          | 6,697              | 802           |
| Akiachak                                 | 4,247         | 663          | 1,863         | 347          | 3,451         | 559          | 1,731         | 502          | 4          | 2          | 11,296             | 1,373         |
| Akiak <sup>a</sup>                       | 2,036         | 1,235        | 2,011         | 1,752        | 2,072         | 1,446        | 951           | 765          | -          | -          | 7,070              | -             |
| Tuluksak                                 | 977           | 310          | 1,017         | 420          | 1,341         | 385          | 419           | 173          | 26         | 20         | 3,779              | 1,033         |
| <b>District Total</b>                    | <b>48,598</b> | <b>4,935</b> | <b>28,850</b> | <b>2,869</b> | <b>52,851</b> | <b>4,654</b> | <b>18,938</b> | <b>2,438</b> | <b>267</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>149,504</b>     | <b>12,077</b> |
| Lower Kalskag                            | 487           | 163          | 550           | 280          | 581           | 240          | 116           | 60           | 3          | 9          | 1,737              | 645           |
| Upper Kalskag                            | 346           | 224          | 48            | 42           | 121           | 113          | 113           | 121          | 17         | 29         | 644                | 468           |
| Aniak                                    | 1,307         | 309          | 321           | 99           | 1,601         | 412          | 1,163         | 314          | 2          | 0          | 4,394              | 740           |
| Chuathbaluk                              | 966           | 117          | 318           | 71           | 710           | 111          | 246           | 63           | 5          | 2          | 2,246              | 251           |
| <b>District Total</b>                    | <b>3,106</b>  | <b>411</b>   | <b>1,236</b>  | <b>298</b>   | <b>3,014</b>  | <b>481</b>   | <b>1,637</b>  | <b>337</b>   | <b>27</b>  | <b>30</b>  | <b>9,021</b>       | <b>1,054</b>  |
| Crooked Creek                            | 217           | 97           | 508           | 449          | 745           | 456          | 1,851         | 1,874        | 0          | 0          | 3,322              | 2,775         |
| Red Devil                                | 60            | -            | 5             | -            | 176           | -            | 77            | -            | 0          | -          | 318                | -             |
| Sleetmute                                | 41            | 23           | 29            | 14           | 403           | 105          | 133           | 57           | 0          | 0          | 606                | 132           |
| Stony River                              | 28            | 25           | 14            | 21           | 91            | 68           | 25            | 31           | 0          | 0          | 158                | 122           |
| Lime Village <sup>b</sup>                | 20            | -            | 35            | -            | 1,120         | -            | 40            | -            | 6          | -          | 1,221              | -             |
| McGrath                                  | 71            | 75           | 24            | 40           | 19            | 31           | 266           | 212          | 2          | 0          | 381                | 233           |
| Takotna                                  | 0             | 0            | 0             | 0            | 0             | 0            | 1             | 1            | 0          | 0          | 1                  | 1             |
| Nikolai                                  | 226           | 76           | 4             | 2            | 0             | 0            | 0             | 0            | 0          | 0          | 230                | 78            |
| <b>District Total</b>                    | <b>663</b>    | <b>137</b>   | <b>618</b>    | <b>451</b>   | <b>2,554</b>  | <b>468</b>   | <b>2,393</b>  | <b>1,882</b> | <b>8</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>6,236</b>       | <b>2,785</b>  |
| <b>Kuskokwim River Total<sup>c</sup></b> | <b>52,367</b> | <b>4,903</b> | <b>30,705</b> | <b>2,901</b> | <b>58,418</b> | <b>4,654</b> | <b>22,969</b> | <b>3,121</b> | <b>302</b> | <b>138</b> | <b>164,760</b>     | <b>12,345</b> |
| Quinhagak                                | 2,469         | 359          | 1,018         | 183          | 3,422         | 1,041        | 1,026         | 239          | 78         | 30         | 8,012              | 1,257         |
| Goodnews Bay                             | 688           | 460          | 306           | 197          | 1,554         | 876          | 143           | 164          | 0          | 0          | 2,691              | 1,139         |
| Platinum                                 | 30            | 28           | 28            | 2            | 472           | 220          | 56            | 13           | 12         | 11         | 597                | 267           |
| <b>District Total</b>                    | <b>3,188</b>  | <b>550</b>   | <b>1,351</b>  | <b>246</b>   | <b>5,448</b>  | <b>1,218</b> | <b>1,224</b>  | <b>278</b>   | <b>90</b>  | <b>31</b>  | <b>11,301</b>      | <b>1,601</b>  |
| <b>Kuskokwim Area Total</b>              | <b>55,555</b> | <b>4,898</b> | <b>32,056</b> | <b>2,895</b> | <b>63,866</b> | <b>4,767</b> | <b>24,193</b> | <b>3,122</b> | <b>392</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>176,061</b>     | <b>12,362</b> |

Source: ADF&G Division of Subsistence household surveys, 2023.

Note: Dashes indicate that data are unavailable.

Note: Italic text indicates Bayesian estimates.

a. Community was not surveyed.

b. Lime Village conducted an internal census survey and provided the Division of Subsistence with the total community harvest per species.

# Contact us

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