



# Documenting resilience on the Yukon:

ADF&G Subsistence Research Update

ALIDA TRAINOR, NORTHERN REGION PROGRAM MANAGER

YRDFA PRESEASON MEETING

MAY 2, 2024





# Role and responsibilities of ADF&G Subsistence Division

Division of Subsistence was established in 1978 with the passage of the subsistence priority law (AS 16.05.258)

Our mission (AS 16.05.094):

- Document the traditional and customary uses of wild foods in Alaska
- Quantify extent dependence on wild food
- Make information available to the public
- Assist the department, Boards, in determining subsistence uses
- Evaluate impacts of laws/regulations on subsistence





Telling the story of salmon





# Yukon Comprehensive Surveys

---

## First-time surveys

- Chevak (2021)
- Hooper Bay (2021)
- Koyukuk (2022)

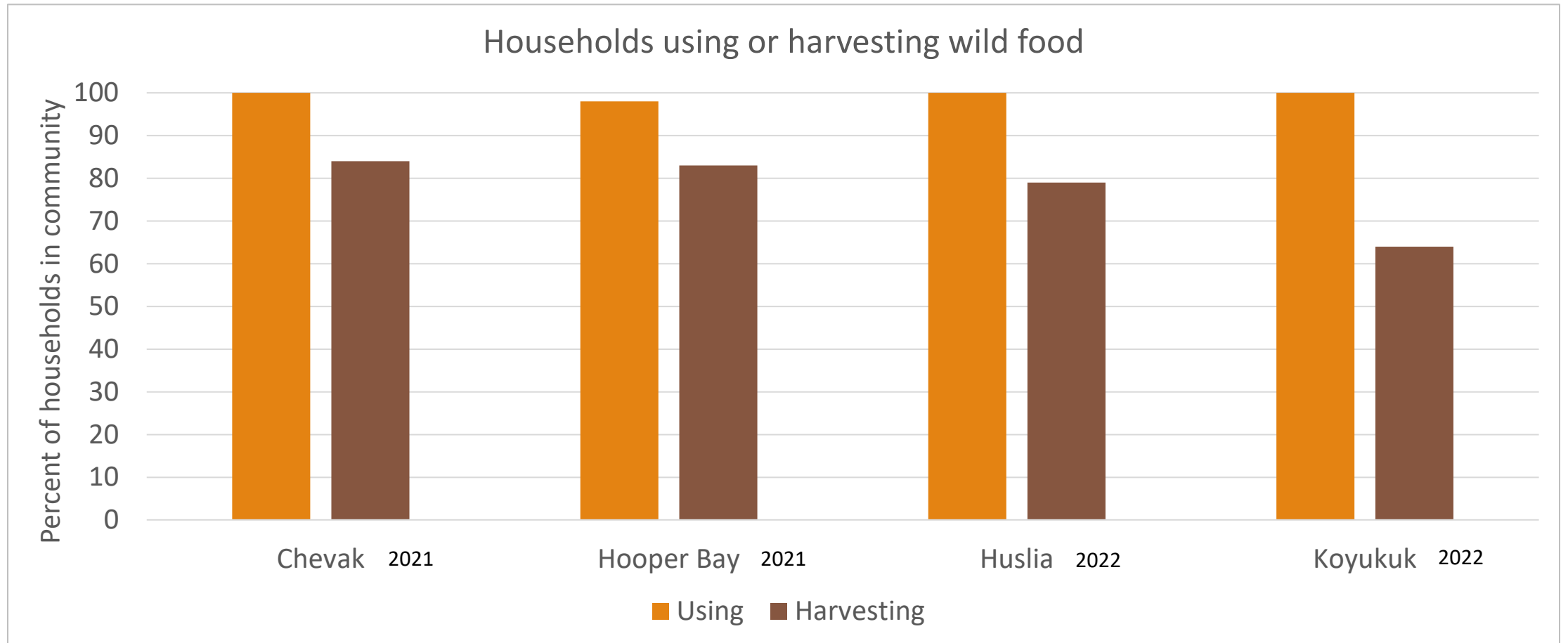
## Last surveyed 40+ years ago

- Huslia (2022)
- Kotlik (2023)
- Alakanuk (2023)





# Adaptation: Continuing to harvest and use many different wild resources, shifting effort to other species?





# Customary Trade and Barter in the Lower/Middle Yukon

---

Sharing – giving with no immediate reciprocity expected

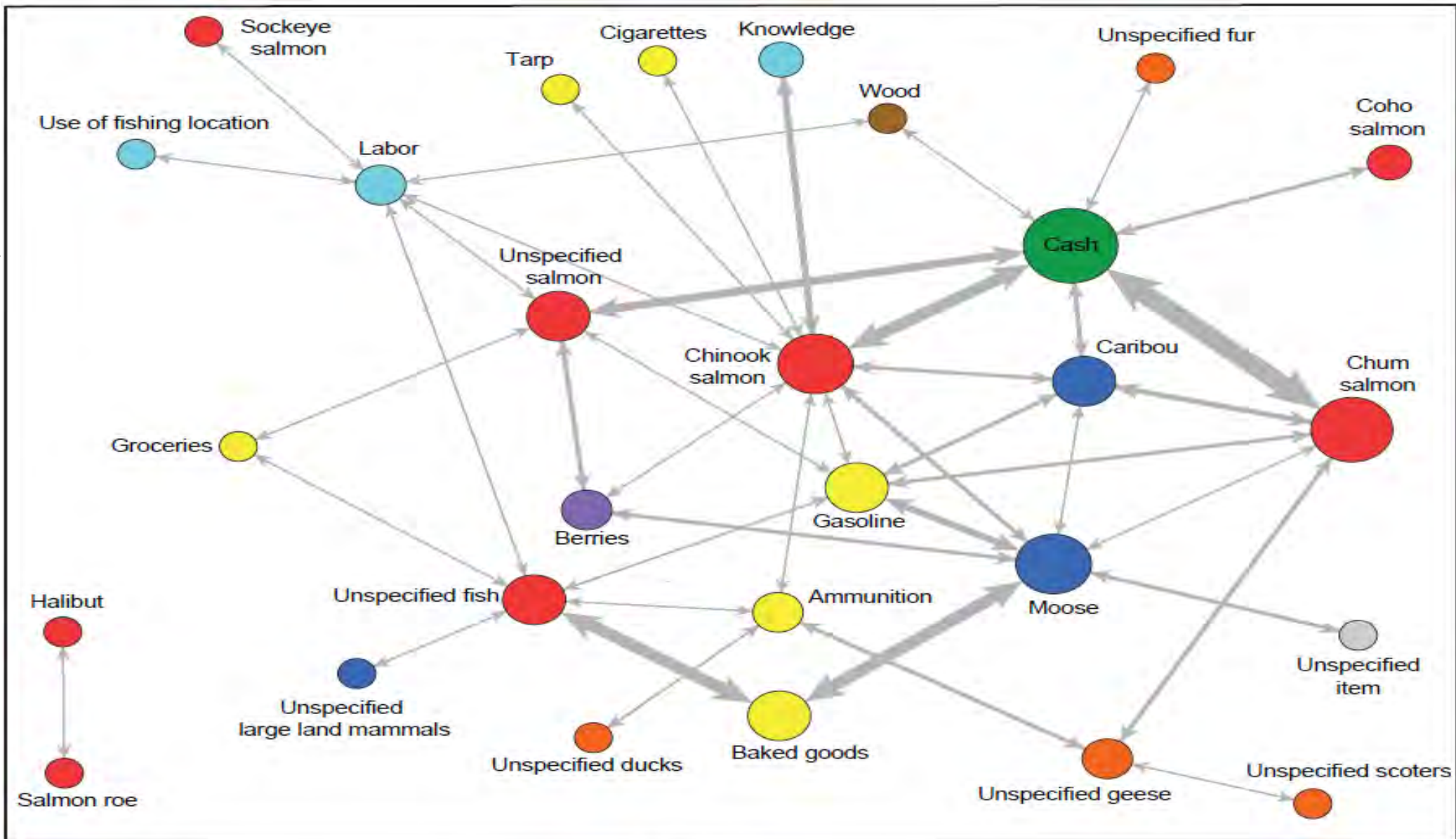
Barter – swapping one food or resource for another

Customary trade – exchanging cash for a wild food



How have these practices been affected by salmon declines?









**LEGEND**

 Resources exchanged,  
 scaled by the total number of  
 transactions involving the resource,  
 and colored by resource category

 Exchange transactions,  
 scaled by the number of transactions  
 involving the resource pair

# Adaptation: Relying on and strengthening exchange networks

---

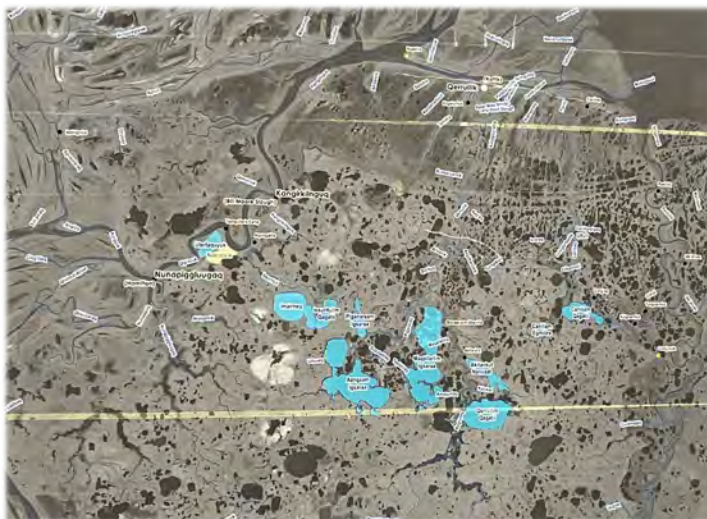
- Long-term, multigenerational exchange relationships
- Salmon from friends, family, acquaintances across Alaska
- Social media facilitates certain kinds of exchanges, broadens networks
- Sharing, trade, and barter are critical in meeting wild food needs





# The presence and use of salmon in the Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers

- Interdisciplinary project to document salmon presence and use (ADF&G Sport Fish and Subsistence)
- eDNA sampling, harvest mapping, household surveys and interviews about salmon and other uses of the Pastolik/Pastoliak rivers





# Adaptation: Seeking additional harvest opportunities/documenting salmon TEK

Current and future work on salmon in coastal streams

- Pastolik/Pastoliak
- Kun/Kashunuk (future)





A scenic landscape of a wide river at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The foreground shows a rocky riverbank with small waves lapping at the shore. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains under a cloudy sky.

# Summary

- Communities maintain connections to wild resources even in times of salmon declines
- In the absence of salmon, some communities are shifting harvest pressure onto other resources
- Households support each other through exchange
  - High degree of sharing in Yukon communities
- More participation in collaborative, cooperative research
- Salmon advocacy increasing



Quyana! Mahsi'Cho! Guneshcheesh!

