



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Yukon River Fisheries Preseason Meeting

Embassy Suites of Hilton Anchorage

Anchorage, Alaska

March 24, 2022



2022 Yukon River Fishery Preseason Planning Meeting
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Table of Contents	1
Welcome	3
Agenda	4-5
Communities & Fishing District Maps	6-13
US Fish and Wildlife Service Contacts	14
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fall Contacts	15
Who Does What?	16-23
How to Subscribe to Advisory Announcements	24-25
Board of Fisheries Process	26-27
Impact of Ichthyophonus	28-29
In-Season Subsistence Salmon Harvest Survey Program	30
Weekly In-Season Management Teleconferences	31
How to Measure Mesh Size	32
Yukon Area Subsistence and Personal Use Permit Guide	33-34
YRDFA Board and Alternates	35
YRDFA Staff	36



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2898, Palmer, AK 99645
Tel: 907-272-3142 Toll Free: 877-999-8566
Fax: 907-272-3142

Greetings and welcome to your 2022 Yukon River Fishery Preseason meeting. It is great to see this great turn-out and wide representation from the river! The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association is funded to host this year's meeting through the generous support of the Yukon River Panel. The Panel, composed of representatives from both the Alaskan and Canadian portions of the Yukon River Drainage have been working together for over 20 years to support conservation and sustainable fisheries on this shared and precious resource.

From the perspective of the over forty Yukon River Alaska communities and fourteen First Nations in Canada we know salmon is more than simply food, it is nutrition, cultural identity and a necessary annual harvest that supports the fish camps and makes winter survival in remote communities, as it has done for thousands of years.

For many years, King salmon declines have been causing much hardship for the Yukon River people. More recently, the chum salmon crashes have become of major concern and implementing full restrictions and closure of subsistence harvest when needed for conservation. Through the Panel, escapement goals, necessary for sustaining the run, have been set for Canadian border passage, as over 40% of the Yukon King salmon run spawns there. Meeting that crucially important goal takes a lot of planning, coordination and cooperation. Simultaneously, Alaska fishery managers plan and work with fishers for meeting Alaska's important escapement goals and to provide opportunity when possible for subsistence harvest.

This is why we are all here, to continue to work together to ensure these goals are met annually with the longer term desire to bring back strong runs of King salmon to the Yukon for sustaining communities, health and culture for future generations.

The YRDFA Board and staff thank you for being a part of this process, for your travel from your home villages and your willingness to engage, learn and share as we all work together towards the common responsibility of a sustainable Yukon River fishery.

YRDFA Board & Staff



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

Yukon River Pre-Season Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2022
Anchorage, AK
Embassy Suites

8:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.

- Prayer & moment of silence for Bill Derendoff
- Welcome
 - Serena Fitka, YRDFFA Executive Director
 - YRDFFA Co-chairs Victor Lord & Bill Alstrom

9:00am-10:00am

- Introductions & Public Comment - [name, community or agency, brief general comments or concerns]

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

- Local Knowledge
 - Community Highlight: Russian Mission
 - Young Fisher: Rachel Kangas - Ruby
 - Elder Knowledge: Benedict Jones- Koyukuk
 - Question and answer session

11:00-11:15 BREAK

11:15 - 12:15 a.m.

- Western Science
 - Northern Bering Sea Juvenile Salmon - Jim Murphy and Ed Farley, NOAA
 - Juvenile Out Migration Project - Courtney Weiss, YDFDA
 - Ichthyophonous Projects - Fred West, ADF&G

12:15 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

- Management engagement
 - Yukon Area Fishery Managers
 - Deena Jallen - ADF&G Summer Season Manager
 - Christy Gleason - ADF&G Fall Season Manager
 - Holly Carroll - USFWS Yukon River Area Manager

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

- Merging Local Knowledge with Western Science -
Jessica Black, UAF & Brooke Woods, YRITFC
 - Low run community planning
 - What would your community like to see happen in terms of fishing opportunities?
 - What gear types does your community use and need?
 - What are the management strategies changes?
 - How does your community want to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into Fishery Management?

3:30 p.m.- 3:45 p.m. BREAK

3:45 p.m.-4:30p.m.

- Continuing Merging Local Knowledge with Western Science
 - Break-out group reports
 - Next steps

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

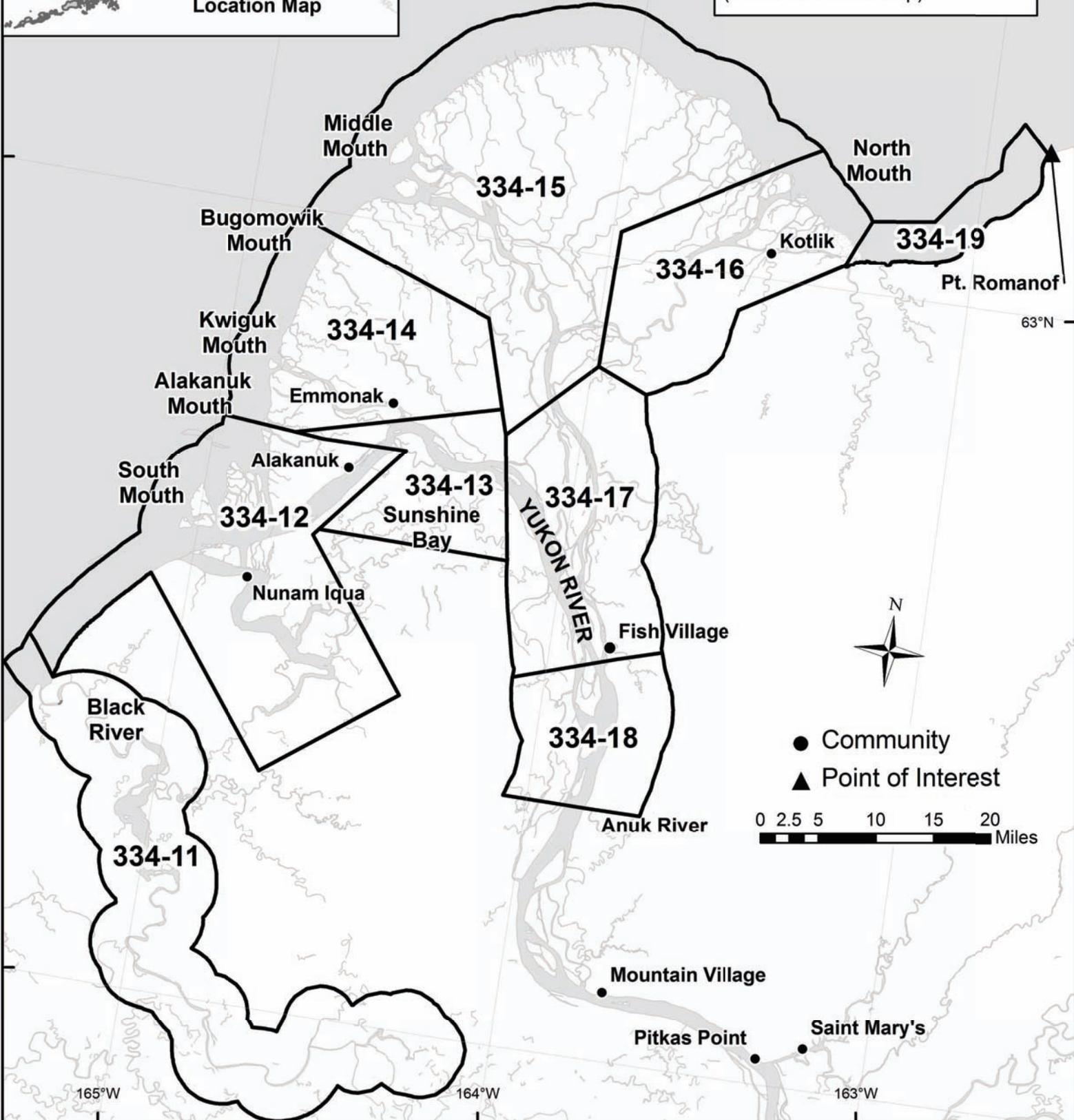
- Announcements
 - Board of Fisheries Process: AYK Cycle
- Final Comments & Acknowledgements

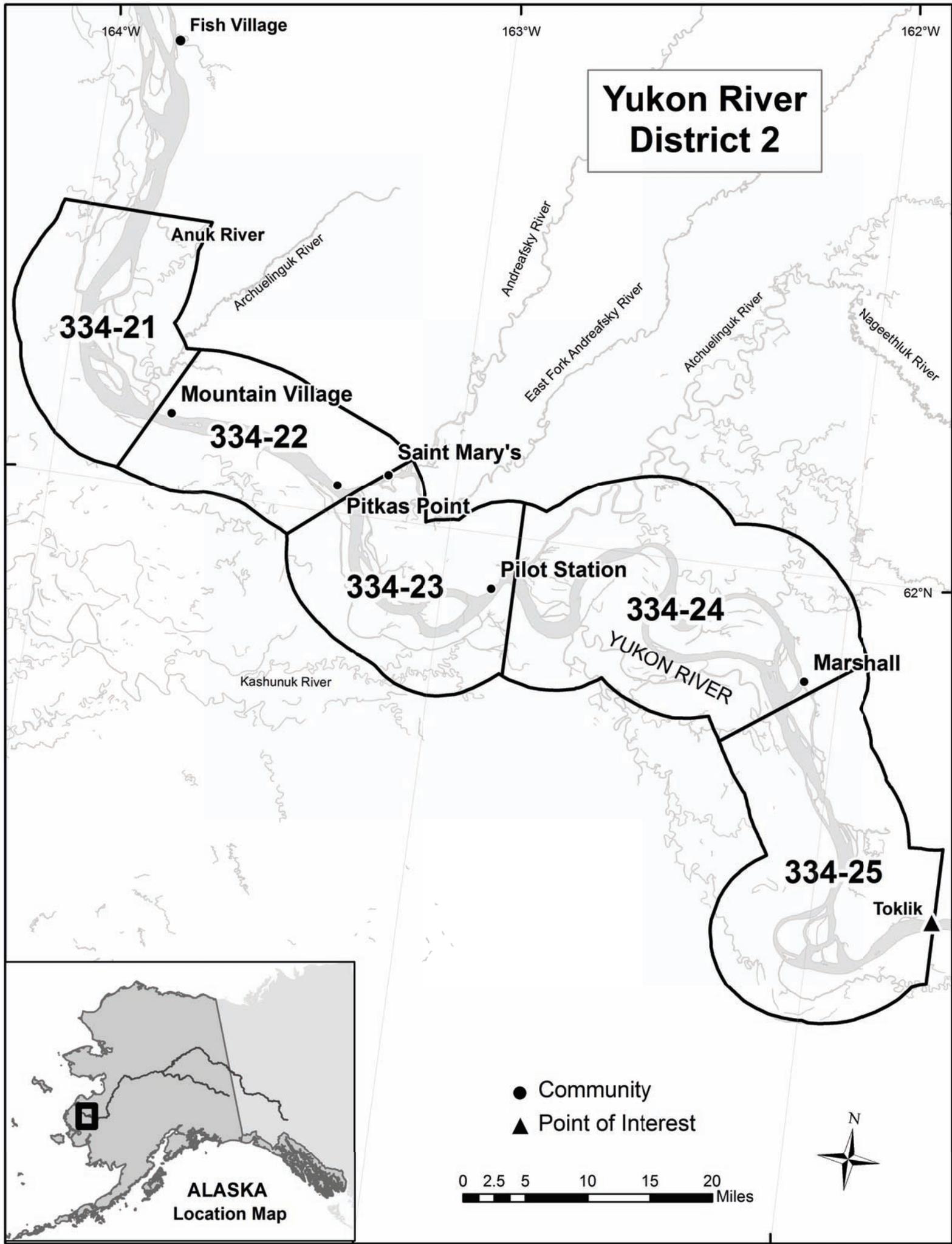
***Agenda is subject to change. Final agenda will be provided during the meeting.**

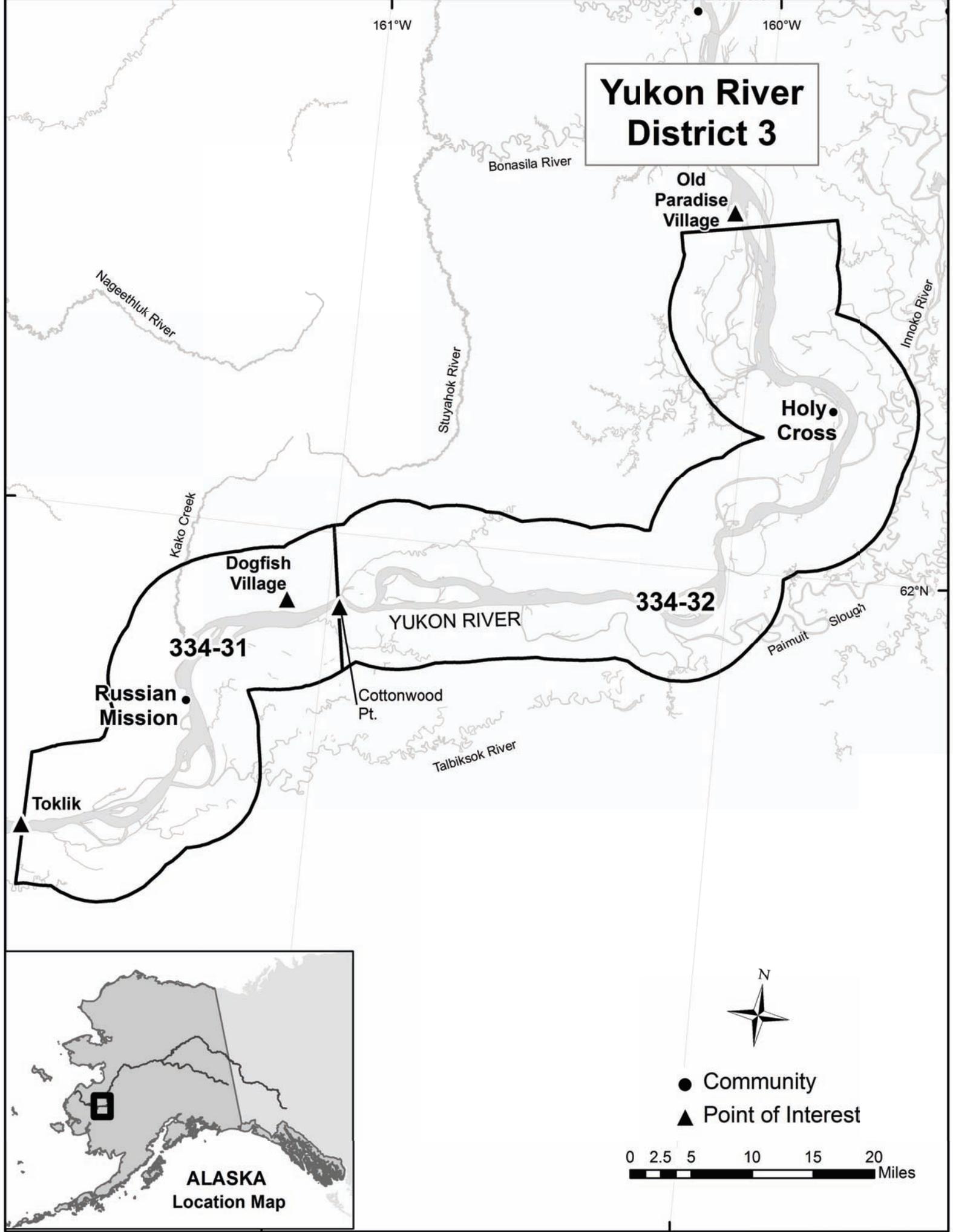
Yukon River District 1

Note: Commercial statistical areas extend 3 nautical miles seaward from any grassland in District 1 (buffer shown on map).

ALASKA
Location Map







Yukon River District 3

Old Paradise Village ▲

Holy Cross ●

Dogfish Village ▲

334-31

Russian Mission ●

Toklik ▲

Cottonwood Pt.

334-32

YUKON RIVER

Paimuit Slough

161°W

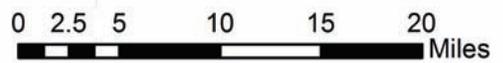
160°W

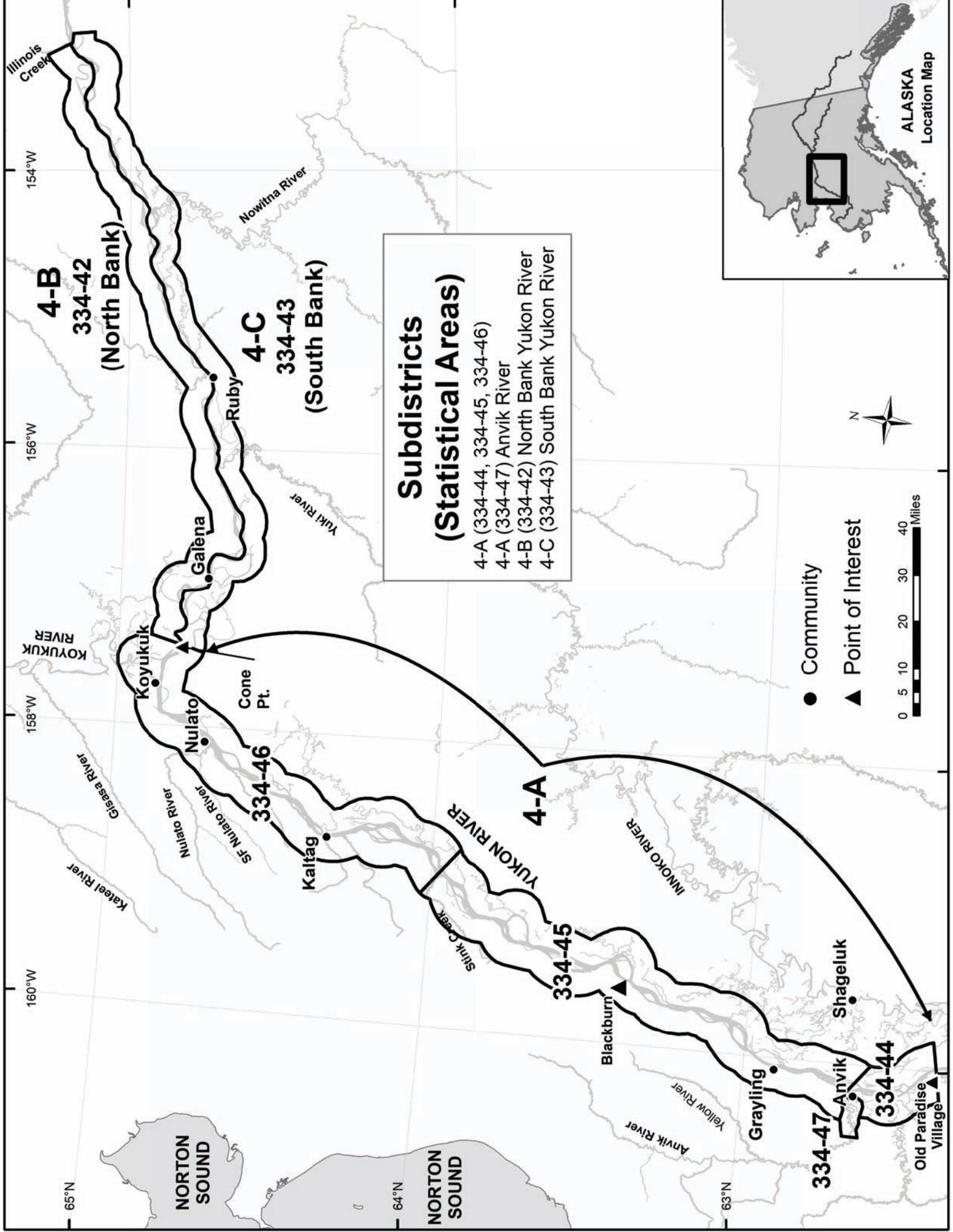
62°N



● Community

▲ Point of Interest





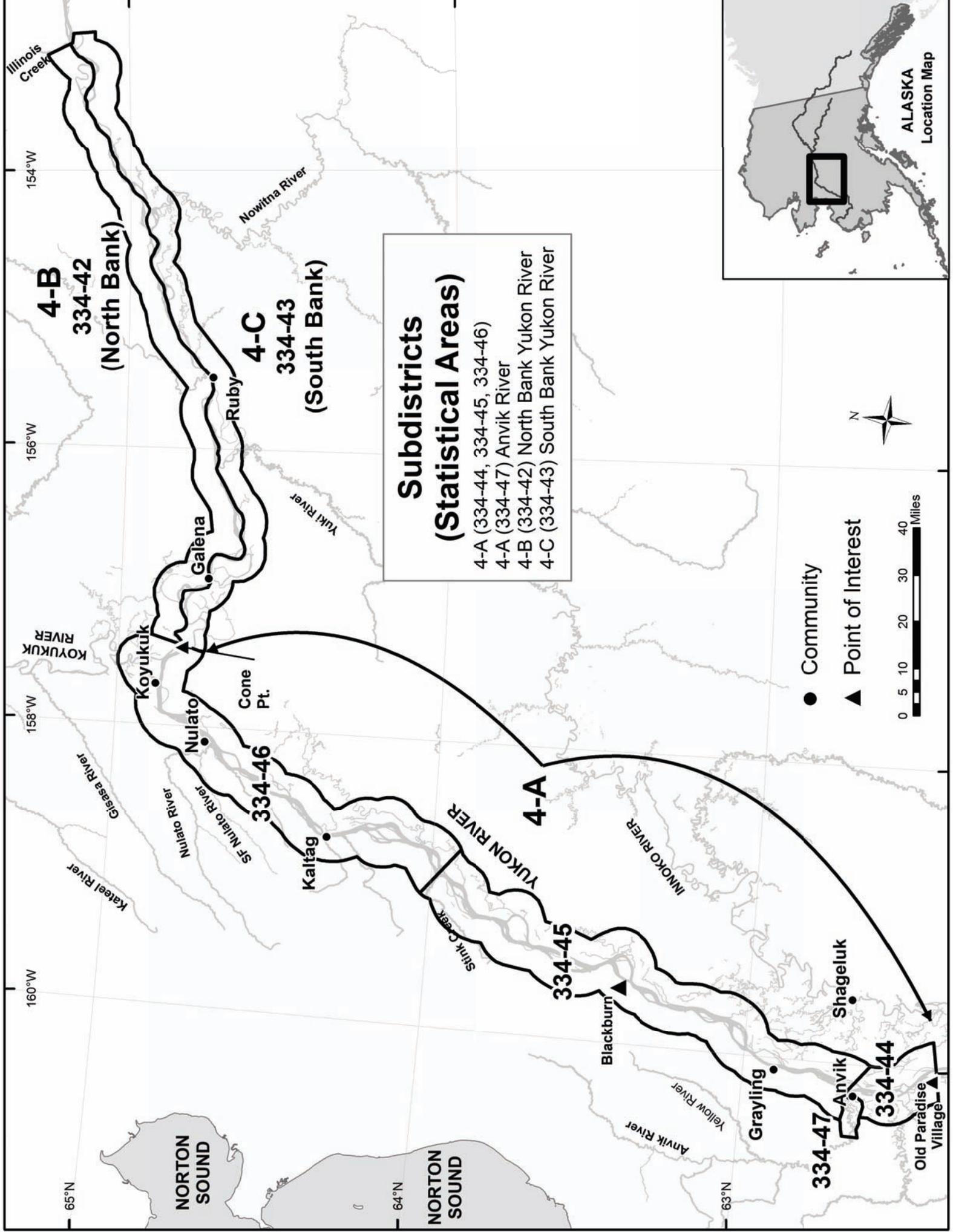
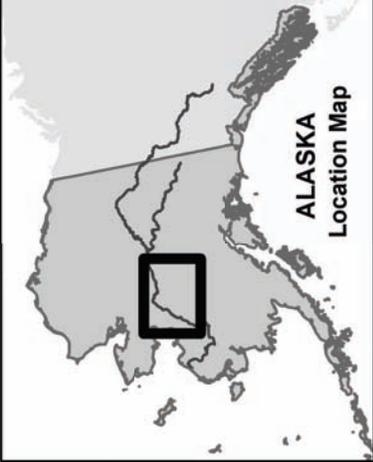
**Subdistricts
(Statistical Areas)**

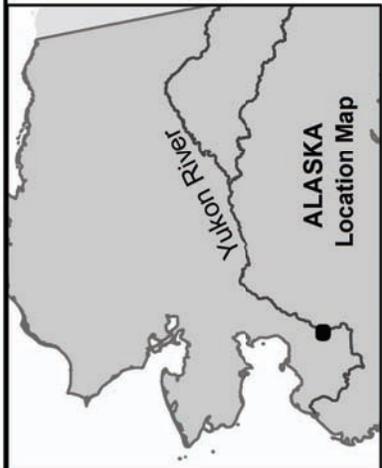
- 4-A (334-44, 334-45, 334-46)
- 4-A (334-47) Anvik River
- 4-B (334-42) North Bank Yukon River
- 4-C (334-43) South Bank Yukon River

● Community

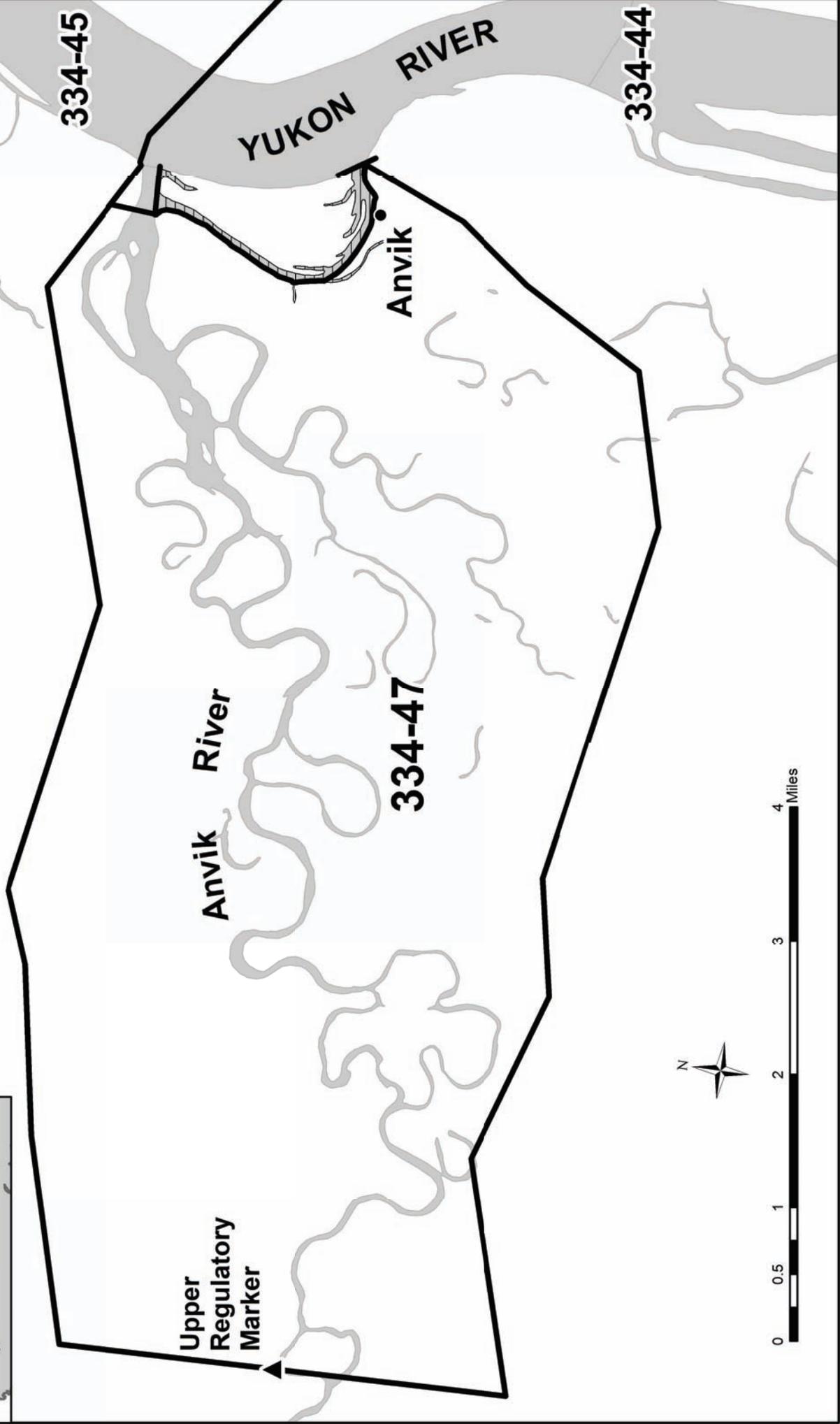
▲ Point of Interest

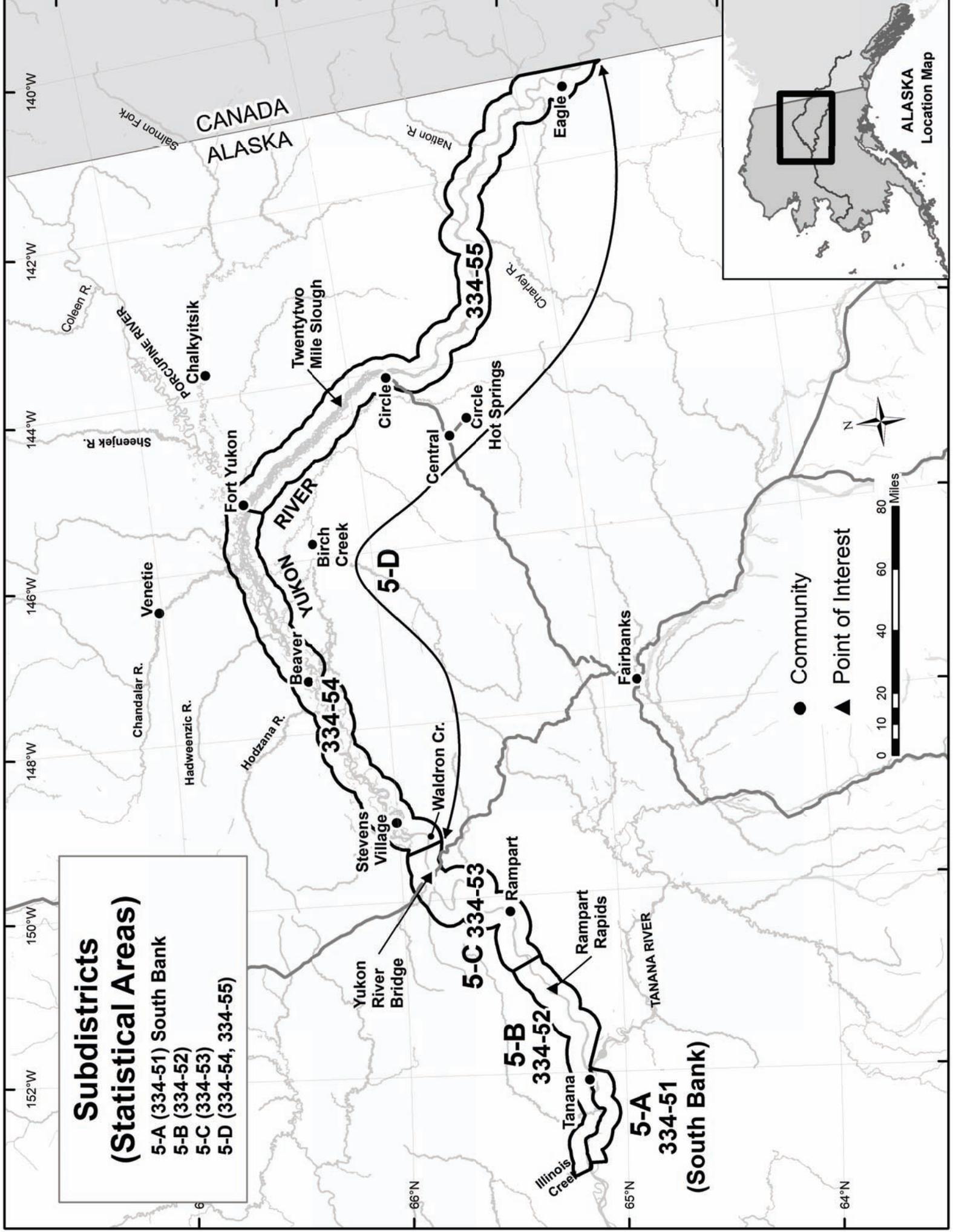
0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles





-  Closed Waters
-  Community
-  Point of Interest



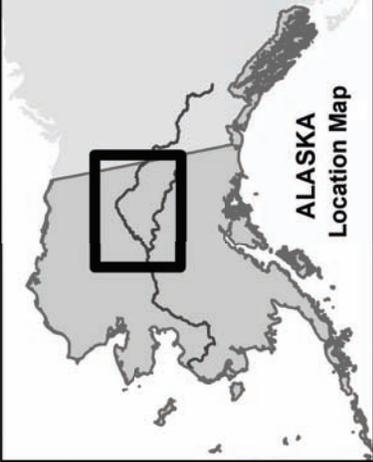


Subdistricts (Statistical Areas)

- 5-A (334-51) South Bank
- 5-B (334-52)
- 5-C (334-53)
- 5-D (334-54, 334-55)

● Community

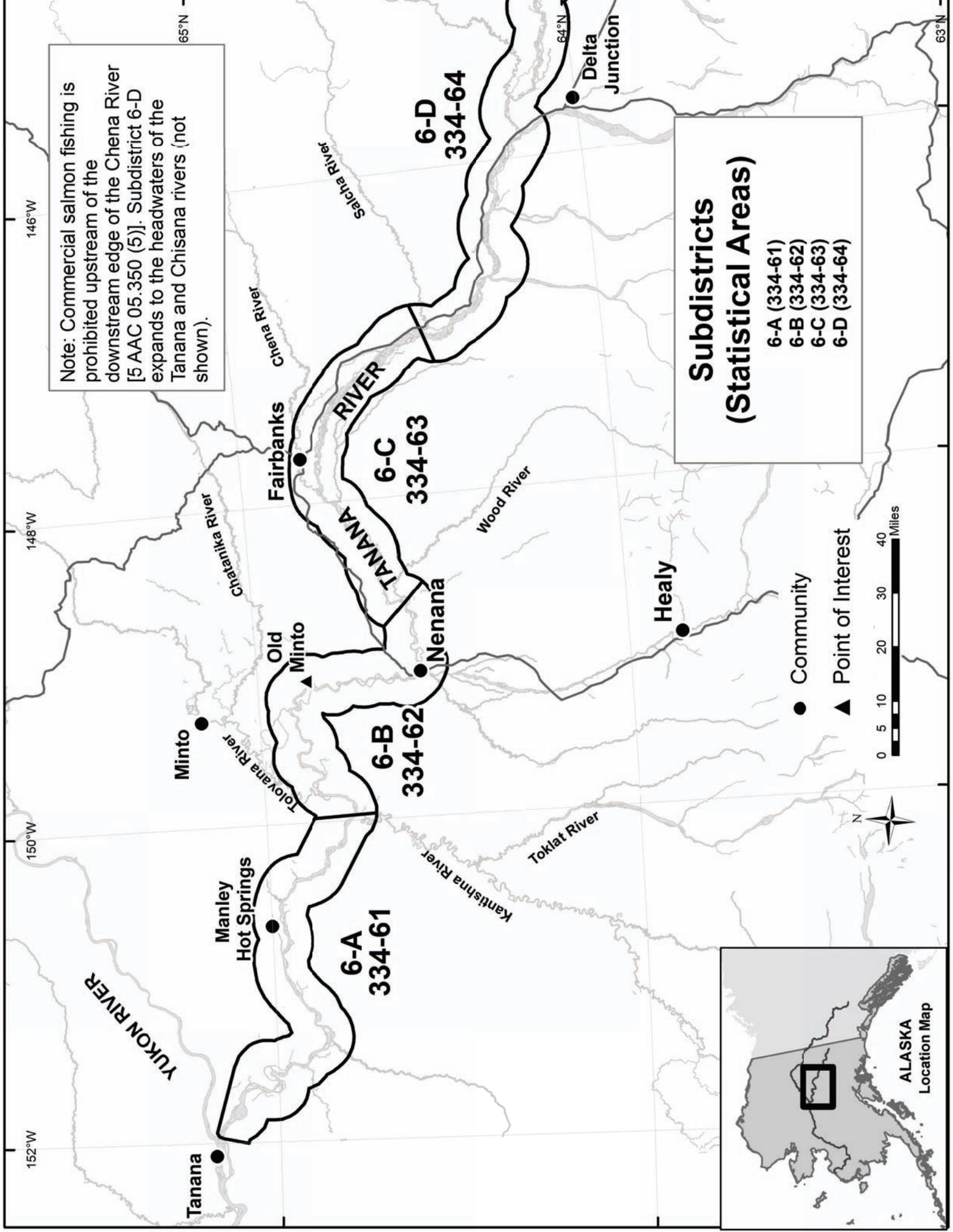
▲ Point of Interest



CANADA
ALASKA

152°W 150°W 148°W 146°W 144°W 142°W 140°W

66°N 65°N 64°N

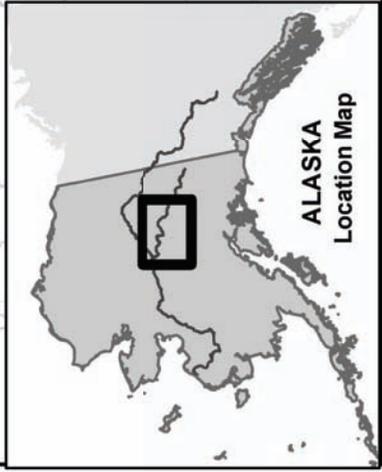


Note: Commercial salmon fishing is prohibited upstream of the downstream edge of the Chena River [5 AAC 05.350 (5)]. Subdistrict 6-D expands to the headwaters of the Tanana and Chisana rivers (not shown).

**Subdistricts
(Statistical Areas)**

- 6-A (334-61)
- 6-B (334-62)
- 6-C (334-63)
- 6-D (334-64)

- Community
- ▲ Point of Interest



146°W

148°W

150°W

152°W

65°N

64°N

63°N

YUKON RIVER

Tanana

Manley
Hot Springs

Minto

Old
Minto

Fairbanks

6-A
334-61

6-B
334-62

6-C
334-63

6-D
334-64

Nenana

Wood River

Toklat River

Chena River

Chitkatka River

Salcha River

Healy

Delta
Junction

Keep in touch with the USFWS Yukon management team:



Holly Carroll
Yukon Subsistence Fishery
manager
907-351-3029 (cell)
Holly_Carroll@fws.gov

Gerald Maschmann, Assistant Fishery manager
Office: (907) 456-0406,
Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov



Keith Herron Ivy
Assistant Fishery manager
and Tribal Liaison
(907) 312-3397 (work cell)
Keith_Ivy@fws.gov

Fairbanks Office
1300 College Road
(907) 459-7274
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Open year-round

Emmonak Office
(907) 949-1320
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Saturdays 1-5pm
Open June-August



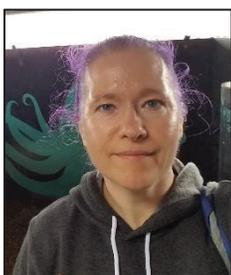
2022 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries ADF&G Staff Contact Information

Summer Season Staff

Chinook and summer chum salmon

Fall Season Staff

Fall chum and coho salmon



Deena Jallen
Area Management Biologist
(907) 459-7309
deena.jallen@alaska.gov



Christy Gleason
Area Management Biologist
(907) 459-7240
christine.gleason@alaska.gov



Sam Decker
Assistant Area Management Biologist
(907) 459-7295
sam.decker@alaska.gov



Shane Ransbury
Assistant Area Management Biologist
(907) 459-7217
shane.ransbury@alaska.gov



Fred West
Research Biologist
(907) 267-2237
fred.west@alaska.gov



Bonnie Borba
Research Biologist
(907) 459-7260
bonnie.borba@alaska.gov



Josh Clark
Assistant Research Biologist
(907) 267-2217
joshua.clark@alaska.gov



Andy Padilla
Assistant Research Biologist
(907) 459-7294
andrew.padilla@alaska.gov



Chuck Brazil
AYK Regional Management Coordinator
(907) 267-2237
charles.brazil@alaska.gov

Yukon River Fisheries: Who Does What?

This document was created to direct Yukon River fishers and stakeholders towards the agencies who can best address their most common questions and requests.

Who are the fish managers and how do I contact them? The primary Yukon River management agencies are the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). ADF&G and the Service work in cooperation when developing management strategies, collecting assessment data, and making daily fisheries management decisions. There are both State and Federal fishing regulations on the Yukon River. Most Federal regulations are very similar to the State regulations, so to avoid confusion, management actions are usually put out jointly by ADF&G and USFWS. The managers do not make or change regulations, they follow the regulations.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game: If you have questions about inseason State management pertaining to subsistence, personal use, or commercial fishing, please contact the following managers: Summer Season Area Manager (Chinook and Summer chum), Deena Jallen or Summer Season Assistant Manager, Sam Decker, or Fall Season Manager (fall chum and coho), Christy Gleason or Fall Season Assistant Manager, Shane Ransbury at the ADF&G Fairbanks office: (907) 459-7274.

For questions about sport fishing, contact the following managers: Yukon River Sport Fish Manager, Lisa Stuby (907) 459-7202, or Tanana River Sport Fish Manager, Andrew Gryska (907) 459-7339.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: If you have any questions about the subsistence management of Federal waters within the Yukon River drainage, please contact the USFWS Federal Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, Holly Carroll; holly_carroll@fws.gov, (907) 351-3029.

During the fishing season, how do I stay informed on all the management actions taking place? Subscribe to ADF&G Advisory Announcements (previously called news releases) at the following link: www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov. Click on the "search and subscribe" button, then select Yukon for Management Area and press the subscribe button.

Read announcements on Facebook by searching YukonRiverfishingADFG or by clicking on the following link: www.facebook.com/YukonRiverfishingADFG/

To see if your area is open or closed to fishing, call the Yukon drainage toll free fishing schedule, and counts hotline: (866) 479-7387

Check weekly Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) Fishing Reports for status summaries of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska –

www.doi.gov/subsistence/news

How do I change STATE Yukon River fisheries regulations? The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) is the state’s regulatory authority that passes regulations to conserve and develop Alaska’s fishery resources. Changing State fishing regulations is a public process, and the BOF is responsible for considering and adopting regulations to allocate resources between user groups, fishing seasons, quotas and bag limits, size restrictions, means and methods (such as fishing gear), habitat protection, stock enhancement; and to develop commercial, subsistence, sport, and personal use fisheries. Proposed changes to regulations (proposals) are considered for the Yukon drainage once every three years and proposals are usually accepted December through April before the upcoming cycle. **Changes to Yukon River fishing regulations will be considered by the BOF during the 2022-2023 cycle and proposals are due April 11, 2022.**

To learn more about the Alaska Board of Fisheries or to submit proposals for changes to the State fishing regulations go to: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main

Anyone from the public can submit proposals to change State fishing regulations, but many people usually begin with their State Advisory Committee (AC). There are 13 State Advisory Committees representing Interior Alaska Yukon River fishermen. For questions about these ACs, call the State Interior Region Coordinator, Kyle Campbell, at (907) 459-7263 or kyle.campbell@alaska.gov. There are three State Advisory Committees representing Lower Yukon River fishermen. For questions about these ACs, call the State Western Region Coordinator, Savannah Hollingworth, at (907) 543-2931 or savannah.hollingworth@alaska.gov.

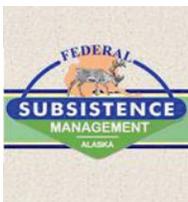
For Information about State Advisory Committees go the following webpage:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.advisory

How do I change Federal Yukon River fisheries regulations?



Changing Federal fishing regulations is also a public process, and the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) is the decision-making body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. For Information about the FSB, Federal Regional Advisory Councils, or to submit proposals for changes to federal regulations go to: www.doi.gov/subsistence



Anyone from the public can submit proposals to change Federal fishing regulations, but many people usually begin with their Federal Regional Advisory Council (RAC). There are three Federal RAC representing Yukon River fishermen. These are: Eastern Interior RAC, the Western Interior RAC, and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC. For questions about these RACs, call Council Coordinator Division Supervisor, Katya Wessels, at (907) 786-3885 or

katerina_wessels@fws.gov



Who decides how many salmon for escapement and harvest go to

Canada? U.S./Canada Treaty Negotiations: A portion of the annual Yukon River Chinook and fall Chum salmon runs spawn within the Canadian waters of the Yukon River. These are referred to as Yukon River Canadian-origin

salmon stocks. Management of Yukon River Chinook and Fall Chum salmon has long been a matter of common interest and concern to Alaskan and Canadian fishermen. Beginning in 1985, the U.S. and Canada agreed to cooperate on the management, research, and enhancement of Pacific salmon and signed the Pacific Salmon Treaty. After many years of negotiation between Yukon River fishery stakeholders from both countries, the Yukon River Salmon Agreement under the Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed in 2002. It represented an international commitment to the restoration, conservation, and management of Canadian-origin salmon upon which Yukon River communities depend. The Yukon River Panel and its technical advisory group the Joint Technical Committee are the bodies formed by the Yukon River Salmon Agreement. The Yukon River Panel is a twelve-person body with six Panel members each from the U.S. and Canada, representing the interests of Yukon River fishers, First Nations, Tribal Councils, fisheries managers, and others who depend upon salmon for subsistence, cultural, commercial, or recreational purposes. This body recommends escapement goals to be implemented by each country for Yukon River Canadian-origin Chinook and Fall chum salmon and provides annual management recommendations to both countries. To learn more about the Yukon River Panel and view its membership go to: www.yukonriverpanel.com/

For questions about the Yukon River Panel contact the U.S. Co-Chair, John Linderman, at (907) 267-2115 or john.linderman@alaska.gov

Among other provisions, the Yukon River Salmon Agreement established a \$1.2 million annual Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund to support projects and associated research and management activities directed towards the restoration, conservation, and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks in the Yukon River. An annual R&E Fund Call for Proposals is initiated in early summer with proposals due by the beginning of October each year. The Panel makes final approval decisions on R&E Fund programs during annual pre-season meetings in April. To learn more about the R&E Fund go to: www.yukonriverpanel.com/restoration-enhancement-fund/

Additional funds go towards U.S. research and management efforts. This includes the Research and Management (R&M) Fund which annually allocates approximately \$260,000 towards advancing the scientific and public understanding of the biology and management of Yukon River Chinook, Chum, and Coho salmon. For questions about the R&M Fund contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service R&M administrator, Matt Keyse, at (907) 456-0418 or Mathew_keyse@fws.gov

Who is advocating for fishermen?

This list may be incomplete, but here are a few other agencies and stakeholder groups that are working hard to advocate for Yukon River fish and fishers.



Bureau of Indian Affairs: The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. Since its inception in 1824, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been both a witness to and a principal player in the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages. The entire state of Alaska falls under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Region, with the small exception of the Annette Island Reserve, which falls under the Northwest Region. More than 180,000 Tribal members make up the 229 Federally Recognized Tribes under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Regional. Nearly a quarter of these Tribes, approximately 55 in total, fall within the Yukon River drainage. For more information about the BIA Alaska Region go to: www.bia.gov/regional-offices/alaska

An important service that the BIA provides is maintaining the Tribal Leaders Directory. To ensure timely and proper Government to Government Consultation, please check and update your Tribes contact information, including email, in the Directory.

To view the Tribal Leaders Directory, go to the following webpage: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tribal-leaders-directory/>

To update your Tribal information please contact Sarah Walker, BIA Alaska Region, at sarah.walker@bia.gov or call (907) 271-4506.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks"; an Alaska Native non-profit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional

Native unity. TCC works toward meeting the health and social service needs of Tribal members and beneficiaries throughout the region.



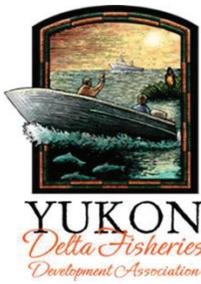
One of the many services that TCC provides is the management of natural resources via their Hunting and Fishing Task Force and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC). For information about the TCC and the YRITFC go to: www.tanachiefs.org/tag/yukon-river-inter-tribal-fish-commission/



Association of Village Council Presidents: The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) provides community development, education, social services, culturally relevant programs and advocacy for the people and 56 tribes of Western Alaska; to promote self-determination, protection and enhancement of cultural and traditional values, as well as natural resources management and protection. For more information about the AVCP go to: www.avcp.org/



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association: The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) was created to conserve Yukon River salmon runs by giving a voice to the people who have managed the resource for thousands of years. YRDFA has become an essential part of the communications between fishers and fishery managers in this region. YRDFA represents village fishers at important state, federal and international decision-making tables, works to document and utilize Traditional Ecological Knowledge in fisheries management and strengthens the long-term economic viability and sustainability of Yukon River communities through preserving subsistence fisheries and enhancing commercial fisheries. YRDFA also serves as a leading research organization aimed at conserving Yukon River wild salmon throughout their life cycles. To learn more about YRDFA go to: www.yukonsalmon.org



Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association: The Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association's (YDFDA) mission is to create a self-sustaining, independent fishing company that will create income and employment opportunities for Yukon Delta residents. YDFDA has established several subsidiaries. Yukon Marine Manufacturing, located in Emmonak, builds boats that are sold to residents for fishing operations. Through Kwik'pak Fisheries, LLC, YDFDA is a leader in the Yukon River salmon fishery. It is the only company participating in the fishery throughout the season and throughout all of the lower Yukon River fishing areas, serving both member and non-member communities alike. For information about YDFDA go to: www.ydfda.org



Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is a Canadian federal institution, responsible for safeguarding our waters and managing Canada's fisheries and oceans resources. DFO helps to ensure healthy and sustainable aquatic ecosystems through habitat protection and sound science. For information about the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada please go to: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/index-eng.html



Yukon Salmon Subcommittee: The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is a Canadian public advisory body whose mandate is to make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and to Yukon First Nations on all matters related to Yukon River salmon, their habitats and management, including legislation, research, policies, and programs.

The YSSC consists of 10 members: two from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (one nominated by Government, and one nominated by the Council of Yukon First Nations), two nominated by the Minister and two nominated by the affected Yukon First Nations for each of the Yukon, Alsek and Porcupine River drainage basins for matters concerning their respective drainage basins. The Minister appoints the members.

In accordance with the Agreement, DFO provides technical and administrative support to the YSSC as required to determine appropriate plans for Yukon River salmon management. To learn more about the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee and view its membership go to:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/yukon/yssc-scsy/index-eng.html



**Council of Yukon
First Nations**

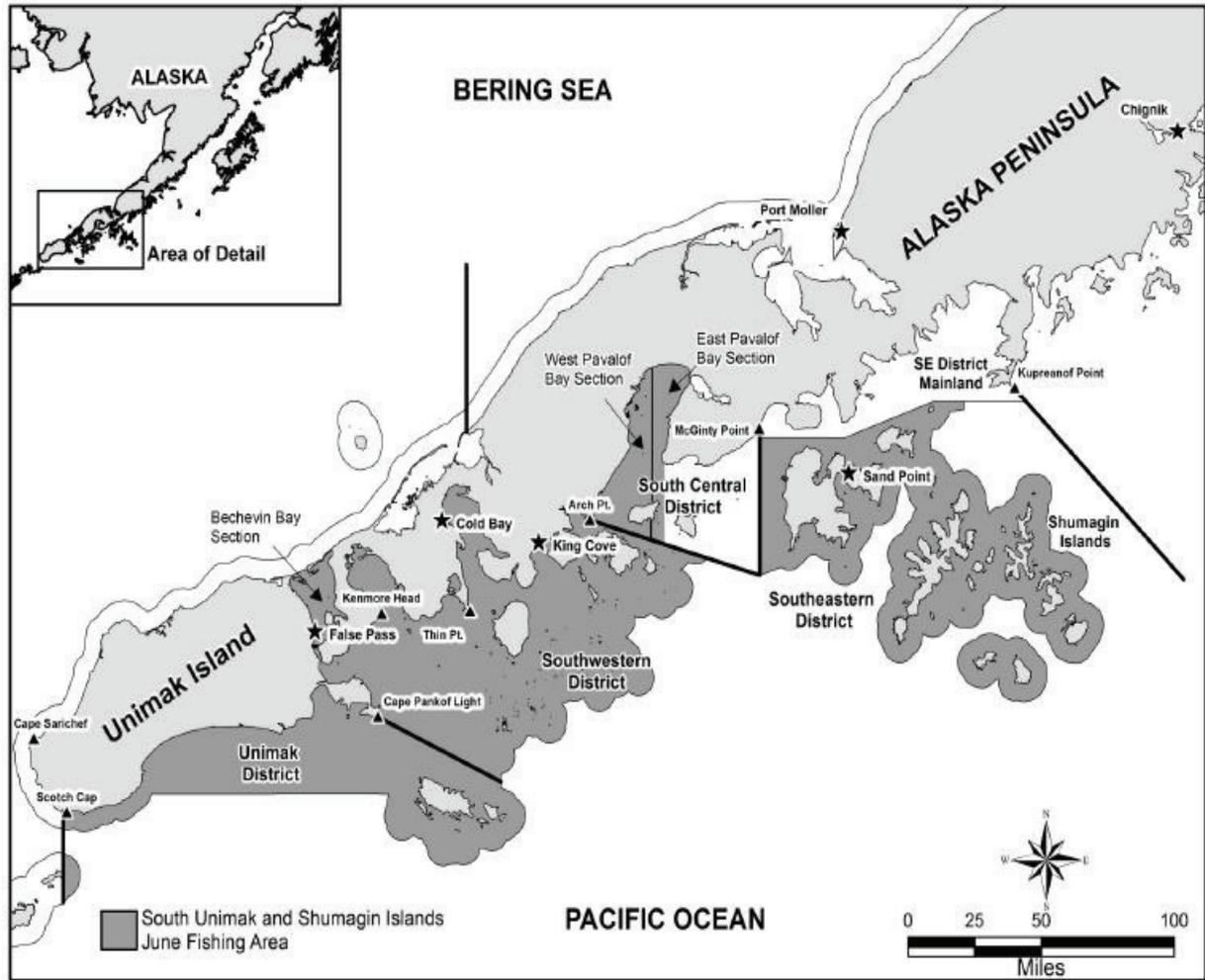
Council of Yukon First Nations: The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) is a Canadian non-profit society working for the First Nations of the Yukon. The Council of Yukon First Nations mandate is to serve as a political advocacy organization for Yukon First Nations holding traditional territories, to protect their rights, titles and interests. Several First Nations members or their representatives serve on the Yukon River Panel, Joint Technical Committee, and the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee. Information about the Council of Yukon First Nations can be found at: cyfn.ca/

General Fisheries topics that come up frequently:

What is Area M? (see map below) The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area, commonly referred to as Area M, includes those waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula west of the Chignik Management Area; the waters on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula west of Bristol Bay; and waters of the Aleutian Islands west of Unimak Island and east of the Atka-Amlia Management Area. Area M is managed by ADF&G and consists of multiple fishing districts with different managers. Commercial fishers are generally targeting Sockeye Salmon in this fishery, but most of the harvest is Pink Salmon. Chum Salmon make up a significant, but smaller portion of the harvest. A very small percentage of the harvest consists of Coho and Chinook Salmon. Pacific cod, other groundfish, crab, herring, and halibut also contribute to the commercial fisheries of Area M.

Are Area M fishers taking our fish? Area M fishermen harvest both local and non-local stocks. A substantial effort was undertaken to genetically sample Area M Sockeye and Chum salmon. This was called the WASSIP study. The WASSIP study could not distinguish between Chum Salmon stocks headed for the Yukon and those headed to Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, and Norton sound, except for fall Chum Salmon headed to Canada. Chum Salmon headed to these areas, except for the fall Chum Salmon headed to Canada, were classified as Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) stocks. It was found that some fish harvested in the Area M fishery were CWAK stocks, but the number of fish that were headed to the Yukon, specifically, is unknown. However, the harvest of fall Chum Salmon headed to Canada in the Area M fishery was very small (1-2%) on average. ADF&G is working on additional studies to try and tease out which stocks are being harvested in the Area M fishery.

Appendix B2.-Map of South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries with areas open to fishing defined.



Were there previous management strategies to reduce the incidental harvest of CWAK and Yukon Fall chum salmon in Area M? Yes, the regulation history can be found in Appendix B1 on pages 54-61 of the South Alaska Peninsula annual management report:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.4K.2021.12.pdf>

For questions about Area M, call the Deputy Director of ADF&G Commercial Fisheries, Forrest Bowers, at (907) 465-6139 or forrest.bowers@alaska.gov

To learn more about the Area M fisheries go to:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaakpeninsula.main

To download the map go to:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/pdfs/commercial/akpeninsula_stat_map.pdf

What's the difference between incidental harvest and bycatch? Some fishers may target one species for harvest, but also “incidentally” harvest other species. These incidentally harvested species are not bycatch. Incidentally harvested species that are sold or kept for use are just part of the harvest, they are not considered bycatch. Bycatch is defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as fish that are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use. This includes the portion of the catch that is discarded back into the sea, and unobserved mortality due to a direct encounter with fishing gear that does not result in the capture of that species by a fisherman. Discards include species that must be returned to the sea by law (regulatory discards), and fish that are discarded at the discretion of the fisherman because they are not economically worthwhile to keep (economic discards). Although commercial fishermen try to catch only fish that can be sold or kept, fishing gear is not 100% selective, and some undesirable fish and other organisms are caught incidentally in the course of fishing operations. These non-target organisms are considered bycatch.



For Bering Sea bycatch information: Neither the ADF&G, nor the USFWS manage the commercial fisheries occurring in the Bering Sea. The Bering Sea fisheries are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries division, with guidance from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office works with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the NPFMC to manage Alaska’s sustainable fisheries. Using the best available science, NOAA Fisheries works through the NPFMC process to develop measures for the best management of Alaska’s fisheries, considering a range of factors such as the health of the fish stocks and economic impact of fishery practices. Once fishing levels and regulations are adopted and approved, NOAA Fisheries works to implement the NPFMC decisions. The goal is to allow fishermen to harvest the optimum number of fish while leaving enough in the ocean to reproduce and provide future fishing opportunities in perpetuity. For more information about NOAA Fisheries go to: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska#fisheries To learn more about the North Pacific Fish Management Council go to: www.npfmc.org

Most Yukon River fishermen are particularly interested in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) offshore trawl fisheries. Salmon are caught incidentally in this fishery, especially in the pollock pelagic trawl fishery. Salmon are considered a prohibited species catch (PSC) in groundfish fisheries and cannot be retained for sale and are considered by-catch. Nearly all salmon taken as bycatch are Chinook and Chum salmon. For the latest Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Update go to: www.npfmc.org/salmon-bycatch-overview/

The NPFMC has developed materials for people who want to know more about Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska fisheries management issues. These handouts can be found at: www.npfmc.org/overview/

For more information on getting involved in the NPFMC speak with Diana Evans, Deputy Director: 907-271-2815

How to Subscribe to Advisory Announcements

www.cfnews.adfg.alaska.gov

STEP 1: Click "Search or Subscribe"

The screenshot shows the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. The navigation menu includes Home, Fishing, Hunting, Subsistence, Viewing, Education, Species, Habitat, and Regulations. The main content area is titled "Commercial Fishery Announcements" and includes a list of "PDFs Published in the Last 7 Days". A red arrow points to a button labeled "Search or Subscribe" which is circled in red.

STEP 2: Complete the "Search Form"

Management Area: Yukon

District: Upper Yukon, Lower Yukon, or Fairbanks Nonsubsistence

Species: Salmon

Select your **Fishery Type:** You may select 'All Activities' or choose to receive announcements specifically for Subsistence, Personal Use, or Commercial

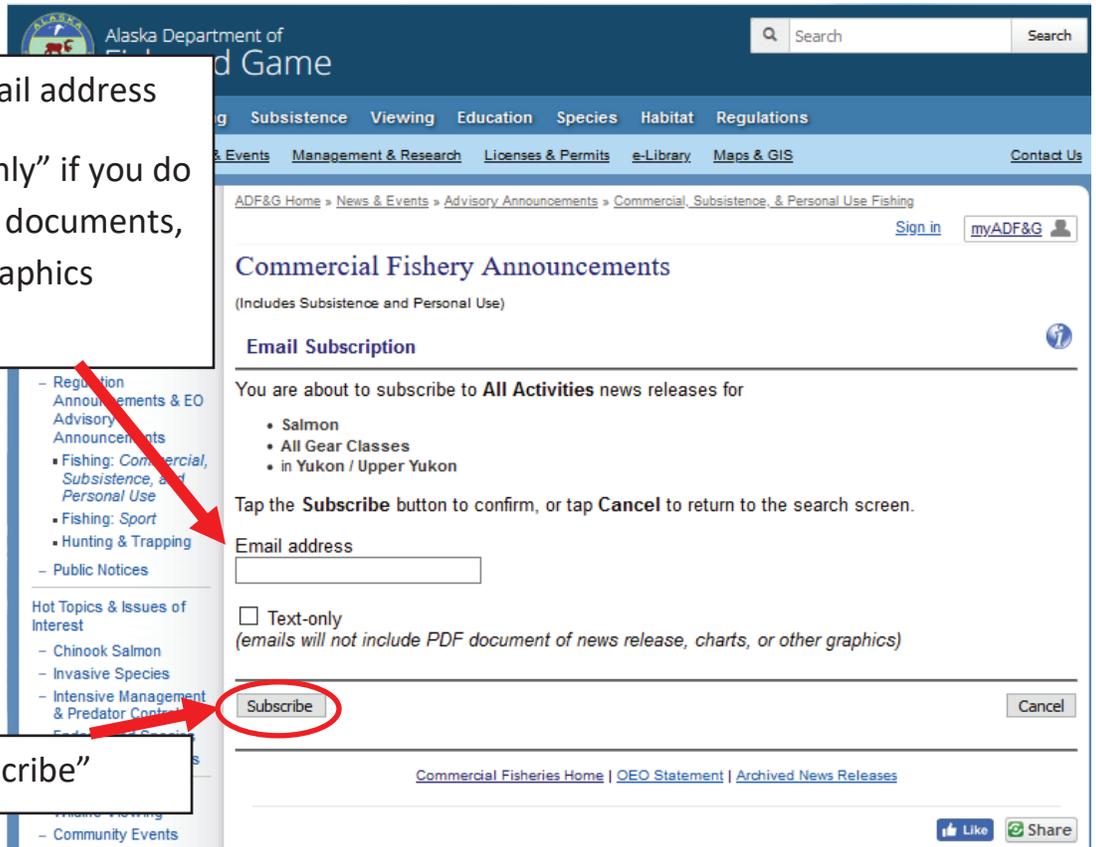
Effective Year: 2022

The screenshot shows the "Search Form" on the website. The form includes dropdown menus for Management Area (Yukon), District (Upper Yukon), Species (Salmon), Gear (All Gear Classes), and Fishery Type (All Activities). There is also a dropdown for Effective Year (Search Only) set to 2020. A red arrow points to the "Management Area" dropdown. Below the form is a "Subscribe" button, which is circled in red.

STEP 3: Click "Subscribe"

STEP 4: Enter your email address

*You may select "Text-only" if you do not want to receive PDF documents, charts, or other graphics



STEP 5: Click "Subscribe"

You can also keep up to date on Advisory Announcements on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/



Click "Like" and "Follow" to receive updates



Understanding the Alaska Board of Fisheries Or...Do you know how fishing regulations are made?



It often comes as a surprise to many Alaskans to learn that the state's fishing regulations are not made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This job falls to the Board of Fisheries, a group of seven people appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

While the board makes the final decisions, the process provides several ways in which all Alaska residents can participate. Here's how it works.

The board considers the needs of fisheries and Alaskans

The Board of Fisheries receives written proposals, comments, and oral and written testimony from members of the public, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and ADF&G. The board then deliberates on regulations that respond to people's concerns, while also considering the need for long-term conservation and sustainable use of the resource. Board of Fisheries meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for public comment.

The role of advisory committees

There are more than 80 advisory committees covering all areas of the state, each with up to 15 locally elected members. Each committee listens to and discusses local concerns about fishing regulations, and then submits proposed regulation changes to the Board of Fisheries. The advisory committees also provide comments and recommendations to the board on proposals that would impact the resources in their area. These same advisory committees interact with the Board of Game in a similar manner.

The role of ADF&G

ADF&G biologists share the results of their fisheries surveys and other biological and habitat studies with both the advisory committees and the Board of Fisheries. The biologists work closely with the advisory committees and assists them in developing proposals for board consideration. ADF&G also submits proposals to the board.

The role of the individual

Any individual may submit a proposal to the Board of Fisheries to change fishing regulations. The Boards Support Coordinator for your region can assist you in writing a proposed change, and provide you a proposal form. You may also submit written comments to the board on proposed changes. Contact your regional coordinator (see list at left) for details and meeting schedules, or visit www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us.

The value of working together

While the board considers all proposals submitted by individuals, advisory committees, and ADF&G, a proposal that has first been reviewed and agreed upon by the above entities demonstrates to the board that there is broad support for the proposal.



Want to know more?

To find out more about advisory committees or how to submit a proposal, contact the Board Support Regional Coordinator for your area:

Arctic: 442-1717

Interior: 459-7263

Southwest: 842-5142

Southcentral: 267-2354

Southeast: 465-4110

Western: 543-2433

Statewide: 465-4110

You can also visit: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

Here's how regulations are made:

The Public



The public can bring concerns to their local advisory committee, submit their own proposals directly to the Board of Fisheries, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the board.

Local Advisory Committees



Advisory committees discuss local fisheries observations and issues, seek information from ADF&G, and submit proposals about fishing regulations to the board.

ADF&G



ADF&G biologists provide information to the advisory committees and provide biological information about the fisheries to the board. ADF&G also submits proposals to the board.

Board of Fisheries



Board of Fisheries meetings are held 4-6 times a year. Proposals from each major region are typically considered once every three years. Meetings are generally held in the region whose proposals are being considered.

Board of Fisheries meetings are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

Decisions are reached by a majority vote of the board

The decisions are given legal review and made official by the Lt. Governor

Want to know more?

Visit www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us
or call: 465-4110



Fishing Regulations are made available to the public by ADF&G, and are enforced by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Department of Public Safety.



Investigating the Impacts of *Ichthyophonus* on Yukon River Chinook Salmon

WHAT IS ICHTHYOPHONUS?

- *Ichthyophonus* is a fish pathogen that can infect Chinook salmon while feeding in the ocean. Infected fish that are also under stress can become diseased, and the disease intensifies as the fish migrate upriver towards their spawning grounds.
- *Ichthyophonus* infects major organs, especially the heart. It can have little impact on the fish's health, or it can weaken the body resulting in the premature death of the fish.
- *Ichthyophonus* cannot infect people, but the fillets of heavily infected fish can be of poor quality for consumption. Many subsistence and First Nation fishers have observed “mushy” flesh, white spots in and on the organs, and noticed a “sweet” or “tangy” smell when infected fish are cut open.

You can also call it 'ich' (sounds like ick!)



Ichthyophonus can display as white spots or streaks in a salmon fillet

BACKGROUND

- In 2020 and 2021, subsistence fishermen reported concerning levels of *Ichthyophonus* infections in Yukon River Chinook salmon. Those concerns were further supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and partners through some limited sampling and laboratory analysis in 2021.
- *Ichthyophonus* has been implicated as one possible explanation contributing to the unprecedented low run abundance of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon observed at the U.S./Canada border and for the unexplained differences between Pilot Station and Eagle sonar abundance estimates. However, we do not know if, or to what degree, *Ichthyophonus* disease is associated with enroute mortality.
- ADF&G, USFWS, and the Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO) have identified a need for focused research to address the concerns expressed by stakeholders and inform conservative management of Yukon Chinook salmon.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Develop an annual *Ichthyophonus* monitoring program and build a new predictive tool capable of providing timely information about the level of Chinook salmon mortality associated with *Ichthyophonus* disease.
- ✓ If after years of development this project is successful, it will provide necessary information to encourage precautionary management when disease levels are high and allow for a better management and protection of Chinook salmon for years to come.



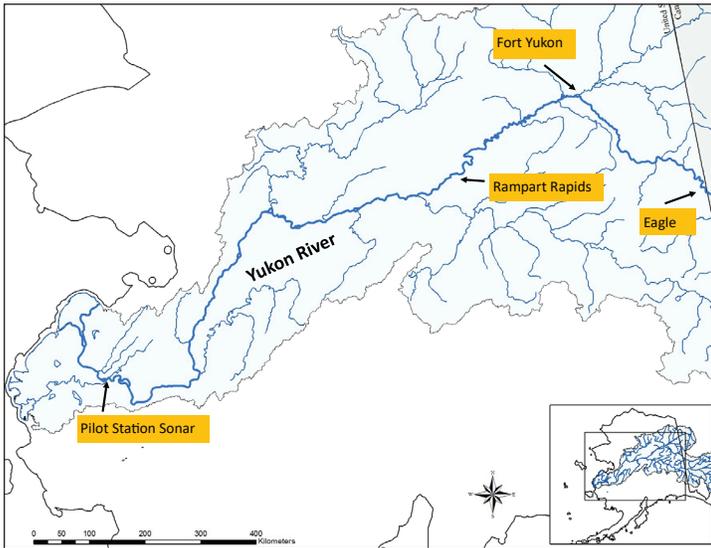
Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

A collaboration between ADF&G, USFWS, and DFO



PROPOSED PLAN

- This project will require community outreach and focused research in 4 key locations where *Ichthyophonus* has been monitored in the past, or where disease severity data may indicate mortality.
- Together, ADF&G, USFWS and DFO are considering options to sample 180-200 Chinook in each selected location in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River. Samples will be sent to the lab for testing.
- Sampling may begin as early as 2022 after all consultation and outreach is complete. We will provide further updates well in advance of beginning field studies.
- Sampled fish will be distributed as equitably as possible. ADF&G will be working with DFO to explore options for sending some of the sampled fish to Canada.



Proposed sampling locations along the Yukon River

PROJECT TIMELINE

2021: Opportunistic sampling to assess the feasibility of lab procedures

2022: Proposed first year of full investigation funded by ADF&G and USFWS

2023-2024: Two additional years of data collection anticipated, pending funding



Photo by Stan Zuray

Heavy *Ichthyophonus* infection of Yukon River Chinook salmon hearts encountered in the subsistence fishery in 2020. The small white dots indicate where the parasite resides.

Unfortunately, non-lethal sampling options are not available. Sacrificing Chinook to answer a research question is not something ADF&G, USFWS, or DFO considers lightly. We believe a short-term sacrifice of Chinook salmon to collect samples is a necessary step to address a public concern, improve inseason assessment information, and better inform precautionary management for years to come.

BENEFITS TO COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CANADIAN-ORIGIN CHINOOK SALMON

- Sampled fish can be sent to Canadians for their use, and could support First Fish Culture Camps, or other community or cultural events.
- Learning more about a possible source of Chinook mortality along the Yukon River will provide a more comprehensive accounting of what happens to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon as they migrate upriver. It could improve our assessment program and increase our ability to predict the number of Canadian fish to reach the border.

Contact us if you have any comments or questions!

FRED WEST

Summer Season Yukon Area
Research Biologist - ADF&G

(907) 267-2237

fred.west@alaska.gov

JAYDE FERGUSON, Ph.D.

Fish Pathologist
(AFS/FHS certified) - ADF&G

(907) 267-2394

jayde.ferguson@alaska.gov

HOLLY CARROLL

Yukon River Subsistence
Fishery Manager - USFWS

(907) 351-3029

holly_carroll@fws.gov

OLIVER BARKER

Senior Aquatic Science Biologist
III, Yukon - DFO

(867) 332-2820

oliver.barker@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

IN-SEASON SUBSISTENCE SALMON HARVEST SURVEY



▶ PURPOSE OF SURVEY

To collect information from subsistence fishers during the fishing season to better inform managers of the current conditions on the Yukon River.

The goal is to help support a sustainable run and to help to meet subsistence needs.

If you are fishing, **please participate** by offering a short interview once a week during the king salmon (Chinook) season with your local interviewer listed below:

Local interviewer: _____

Contact Info: _____

Other local contacts: _____

▶ VOLUNTARY ▶ ANONYMOUS ▶ CONFIDENTIAL

This project is **voluntary** and you can end your participation at any time during or after the interviews.

You will be **anonymous**, meaning your name and harvest information will be kept **confidential** by the interviewer and YRDFA.

Funded by the USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management

*Conducted by Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Catherine Moncrieff, project lead
Telephone: 1-877-999-8566 ext. 103
E-mail: Catherine@yukonsalmon.org*



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

YUKON RIVER IN-SEASON SALMON MANAGEMENT TELECONFERENCES

Not knowing what the future holds is hard. *Sharing and working together makes things easier...even at a distance.*

Join the YRDFA Yukon River Summer teleconferences.

Share what you are experiencing.

Hear what others have to say.

Get important fishery information from managers.

Let's get through this together.

**In-Season Teleconference calls
start in June!**

EVERY TUESDAY

June through August

1:00 pm Alaska Time

2:00 pm Yukon Time

1-800-315-6338

Participant code: YUKON# (98566#)



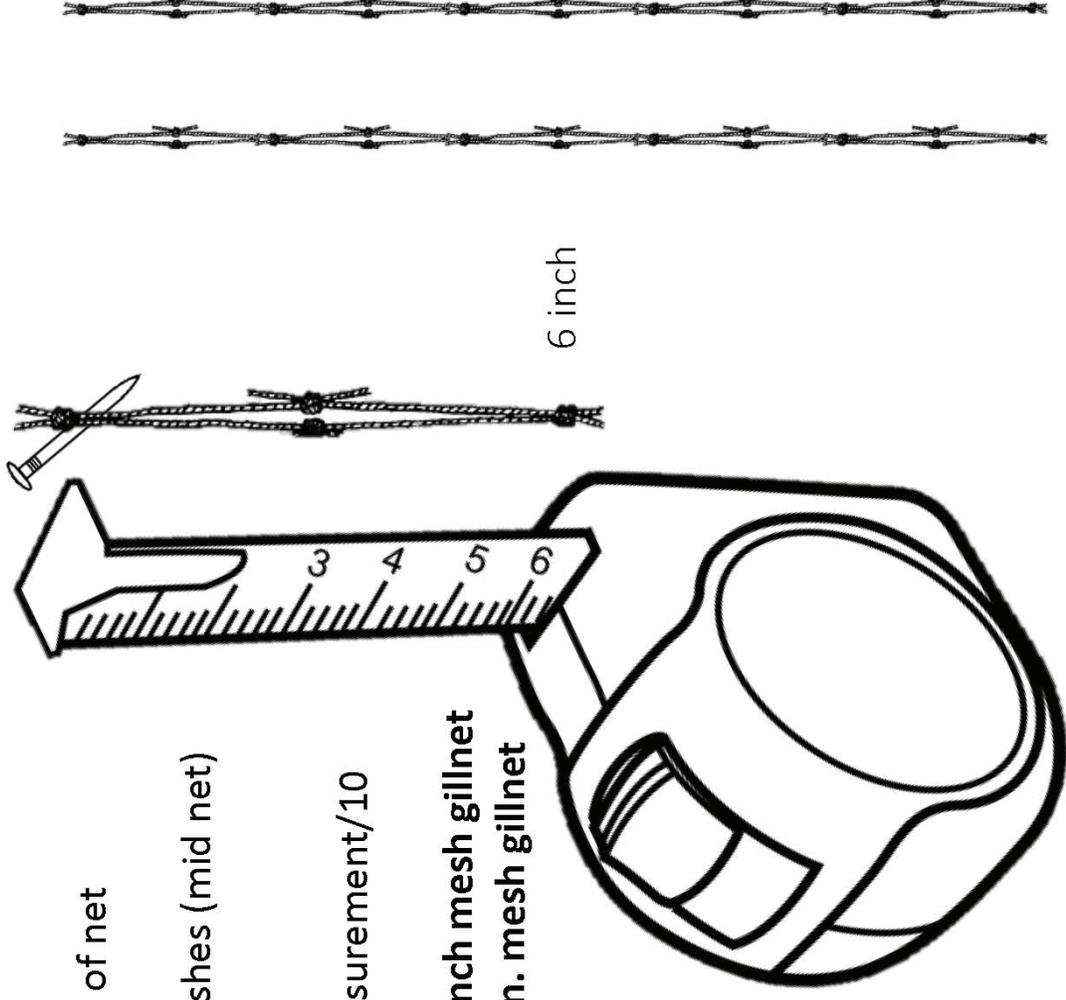
How to measure gillnet mesh size

1. Hang wet gillnet from nail
2. Attach 5lb weight to bottom of net
3. Measure 10 consecutive meshes (mid net) with metal tape measure
4. Stretched mesh = total measurement/10

Example: $55 \text{ inches} / 10 = 5.5 \text{ inch mesh gillnet}$
 $75 \text{ inches} / 10 = 7.5 \text{ in. mesh gillnet}$

Individual meshes may vary slightly in size. Measuring 10 consecutive meshes is important to account for small variations.

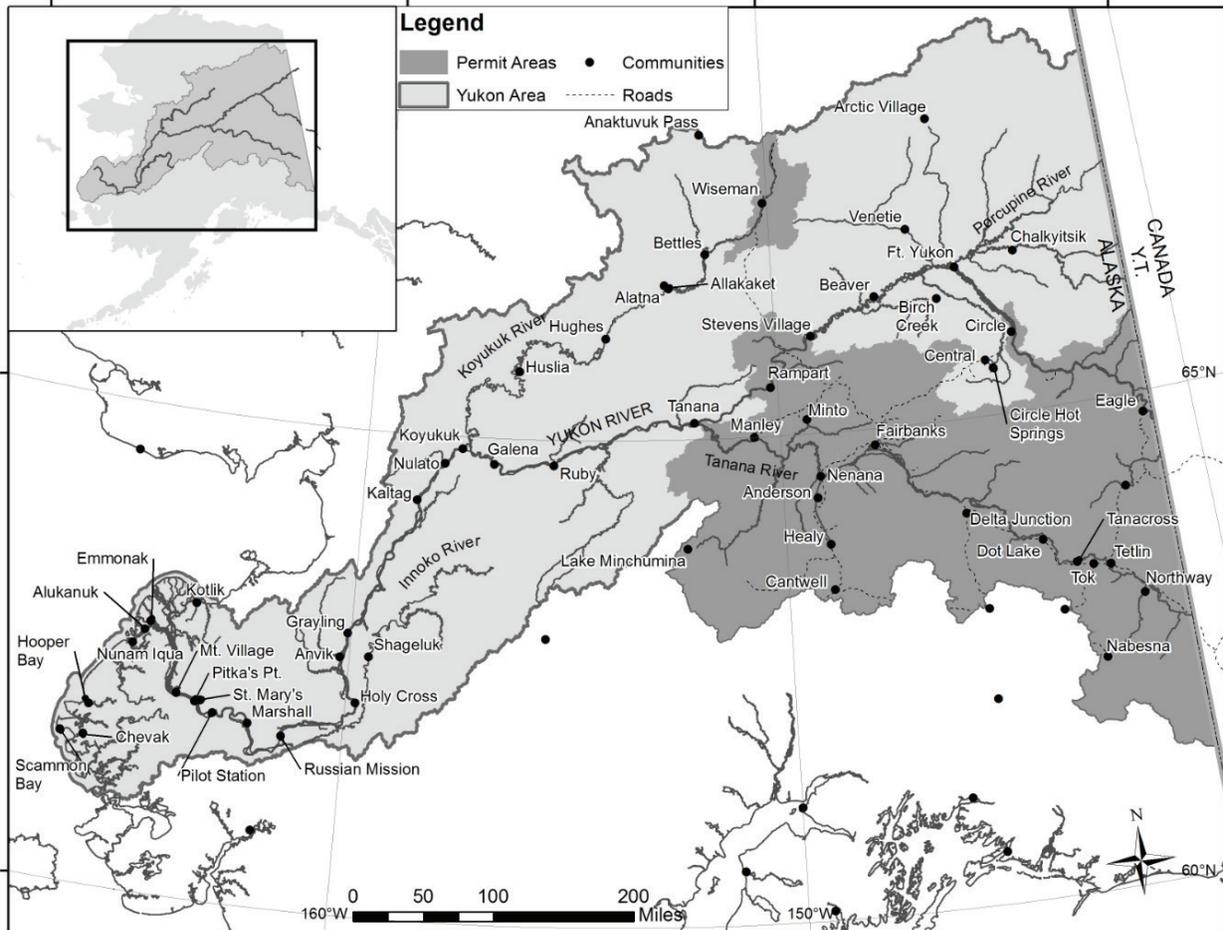
Mesh size measuring instructions are found in regulation 5 AAC 39.975(a)(11)





Yukon Area Subsistence and Personal Use Permit Guide

If you plan to go subsistence or personal use fishing in the dark gray areas on the map, a household fishing permit is required from ADF&G. Only Alaska residents may participate in fishing. See details below to help choose a permit.



Tanana River:

Subsistence, Tanana River/6A (Manley): That portion of the Tanana River drainage from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River. Salmon permit expires October 15.

Subsistence, Tanana River/6B (Minto, Nenana): That portion of the Tanana River drainage from the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Wood River and includes the Wood River drainage. Salmon permit expires October 15.

Subsistence, Kantishna River: Kantishna River drainage. Salmon permit expires December 31.

Personal Use, Tanana River/6C (Fairbanks, North Pole): That portion of the Tanana River drainage from the eastern edge of the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the eastern edge of the Salcha River. A current Alaska Sport Fishing License is required for participating fishermen. Salmon permit expires October 15.

Personal Use, Tanana River Whitefish and Sucker (Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction): Within that segment of the Tanana River drainage from the upstream edge of the mouth of the Wood River, not including the Wood River drainage, to the mouth of the Volkmar River on the north bank (right bank) of the Tanana River and upstream to the Johnson River on the south bank (left bank) of the Tanana River. A current Alaska Sport Fishing License is required for participating fishermen. Whitefish and sucker permit expires December 31. *Not available online; contact Fairbanks office for application.*

Subsistence, Tolovana River drainage Pike (Minto flats/lower Chatanika River): That portion of the Tolovana River drainage not included in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. Permit area includes Minto flats and the lower portion of the Chatanika River delineated by a regulatory boundary marker about 1 mile downstream of the Murphy Dome Upper Boat Landing. Pike permit expires December 31.

Subsistence, Upper Tanana River drainage (Delta Junction, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna): That segment of the upper Tanana River drainage from the mouth of the Volkmar River, including the Volkmar River drainage, on the north bank (right bank) of the Tanana River to the Johnson River, east of the east bank of the Johnson River, and upstream to the Tanana River drainage headwaters. This permit area includes the upper Delta River drainage outside the Fairbanks Non-Subsistence Area. Fishing permit expires December 31.

Yukon River: Permits are required year-round for salmon and non-salmon

Subsistence, Yukon River (Rampart): Yukon River drainage from the western end of Garnet Island to the mouth of Hess Creek. Fishing permit expires October 15. Because a permit is required year-round for all fish species, you must contact ADF&G if fishing before or after the salmon season.

Subsistence, Yukon River (Bridge Area): Yukon River drainage from the mouth of Hess Creek to the mouth of the Dall River. Fishing permit expires October 15. Because a permit is required year-round for all fish species, you must contact ADF&G if fishing before or after the salmon season.

Subsistence, Yukon River (Circle/Eagle): Yukon River drainage from the mouth of Twenty-two Mile Slough upstream to the U.S./Canada border. Fishing permit expires October 15. Because a permit is required year-round for all fish species, you must contact ADF&G if fishing before or after the salmon season.

Subsistence, Koyukuk River (Wiseman/Coldfoot): Koyukuk River drainage from the South Fork of the Koyukuk River upstream of the mouth of the Jim River and the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River upstream of its confluence with the North Fork Koyukuk River. Fishing permit expires December 31.



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Protecting and promoting all healthy wild fisheries and cultures along the Yukon River drainage

Fishing District	Name	City
Coastal, Seat 1	Lester Wilde*	Hooper Bay
Y-1, Seat 1	Stanley Pete	Numan Iqua
Y-1, Seat 2	Allen Hansen*	Alakanuk
Y-1, Seat 3	Camille Augline	Alakanuk
Y-2, Seat 1	Bill Alstrom*	St. Marys
Y-2, Seat 2	Mike Peters*	Marshall
Y-2, Seat 3	Michelle Peterson	Mountain Village
Y-3, Seat. 1	Alfred Demientieff Jr.*	Holy Cross
Y-4, Seat 1	Fred Huntington, Sr.	Galena
Y-4, Seat 2	Richard Burnham *	Kaltag
Y-5, Seat 1	Charlie Wright	Rampart
Y-5, Seat 2	Stan Zuray *	Tanana
Y-6, Seat 1	Dorothy Shockley	Manely Hot Springs
Y-6, Seat 2	Victor Lord*	Nenana
Koyukuk River	Pollock Simon, Sr. *	Allakaket
Flats, Seat 1	Jan Woodruff*	Eagle
Canadian	James MacDonald	Whitehorse
Alternates		
Coastal, Alt. 1	Richard Tuluk	Chevak
Coastal, Alt. 2	VACANT	
Y-1, Alt 1	Paul Andrews	Emmonak
Y-1, Alt. 2	Marvin Okitkun	Kotlik
Y-2, Alt. 1	VACANT	
Y-2, Alt. 2	VACANT	
Y-3, Alt. 1	Basil Larson	Russian Mission
Y-4, Alt. 1	Dick Evans	Galena
Y-4, Alt. 2	Robert Walker	Anvik
Y5, Alt. 1	James Robert	Tanana
Y-6, Alt. 1	VACANT	
Y-6, Alt. 2	VACANT	
Koyukuk River	VACANT	
Flats, Alt. 1	Rochelle Adams	Beaver
Canadian	Carl Sidney	Telin, YT
Young Fishers		
Lower River	Kerri Kelly	Pilot Station
Upper River	Katlyn Zuray	Tanana

*Executive Board Members

YRDFA Staff

www.yukonsalmon.org

Ph. (907) 272-3141, Toll-free (877)999-8566

Fax (907) 272-3142, email: info@yukonsalmon.org

Serena Fitka, Executive Director

serena@yukonsalmon.org



Serena is Yup'ik and grew up in St. Mary's. Her husband, Chris, is grew up in Marshall and together they have 3 girls. They currently live in Valdez. Serena and her family have a strong connection to the Yukon River; both with the resources and the people who rely on them.

Richell Carmichael, Finance Manager

richell@yukonsalmon.org

Richell is a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. Richell began working with YRDFA in 2010, where she really found a love for learning more about the Yukon, its people, and its resources. Richell is a wife and mother of two boys. Most of her free time is facilitating their activities, but as often as she can, she is taking in the views from the top of the nearest mountain.



Catherine Moncrieff, Anthropologist

catherine@yukonsalmon.org

Catherine grew up in Dena'ina country, since moving to Anchorage at 5 years old. She has been grateful for the enriching opportunity to work with YRDFA since 2002. Catherine lives in Girdwood with her husband and two teenagers. When not at work, you can find her on the slopes of Alyeska or hiking, biking, boating, or enjoying the great outdoors.

