

Summary of the 2017 U.S. Yukon Area Fall Chum and Coho Salmon Season

U.S./Canada
Panel Meeting
December 9-13, 2017
Whitehorse, YT

Presentation By: Jeff Estensen



Drainagewide Fall Chum Salmon Forecast

Forecasted run = 1.6 Million

Range (80% CI) = 1.4 Million – 1.7 Million

Estimated 2017 run size = 2.3 Million

- Above average return of 4 year olds
 - Second largest run on record



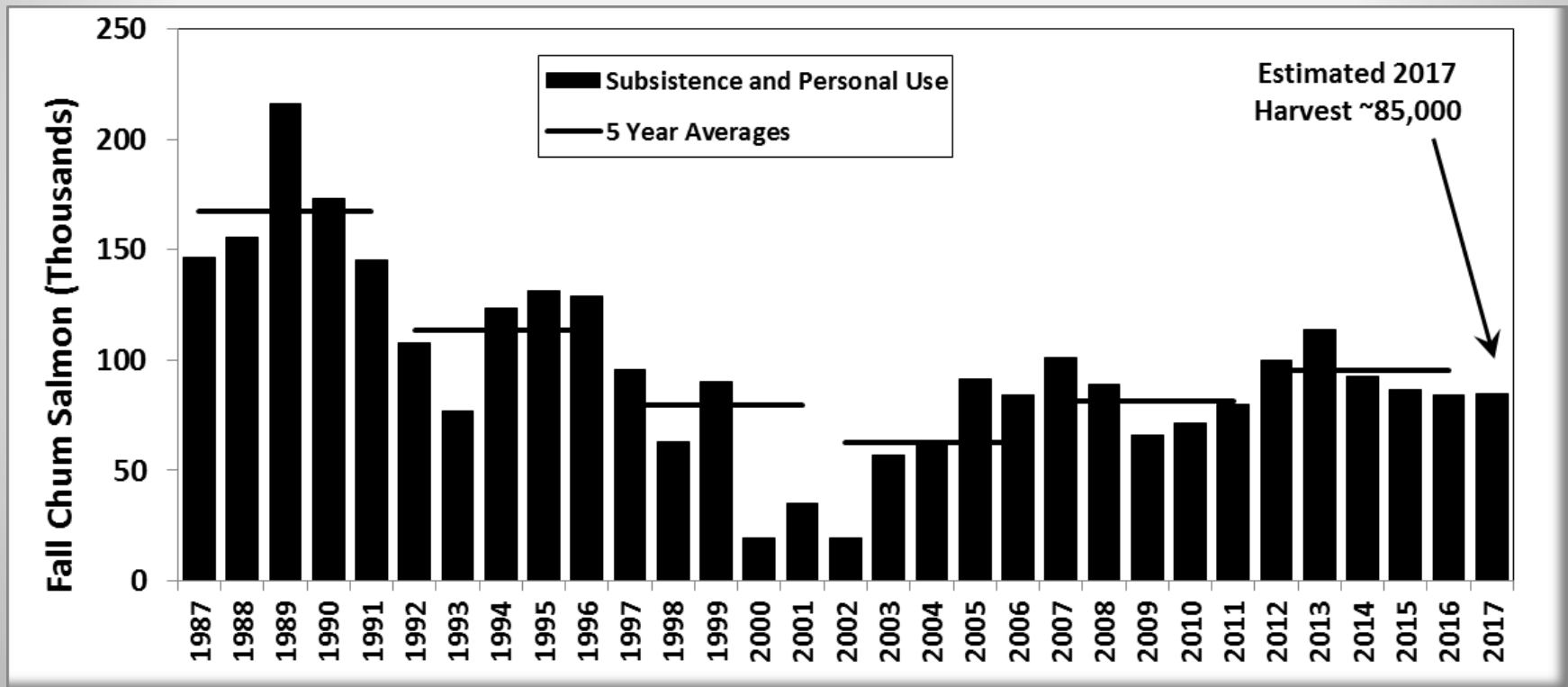
Subsistence Fisheries Management

- Full regulatory subsistence schedules and use of up to 7.5" mesh gillnets upon transitioning to fall management.
- Liberalized fishing to 7 days per week based on inseason run assessment.



Fall Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvest

2017 estimate ~ 85,000 fall chum salmon

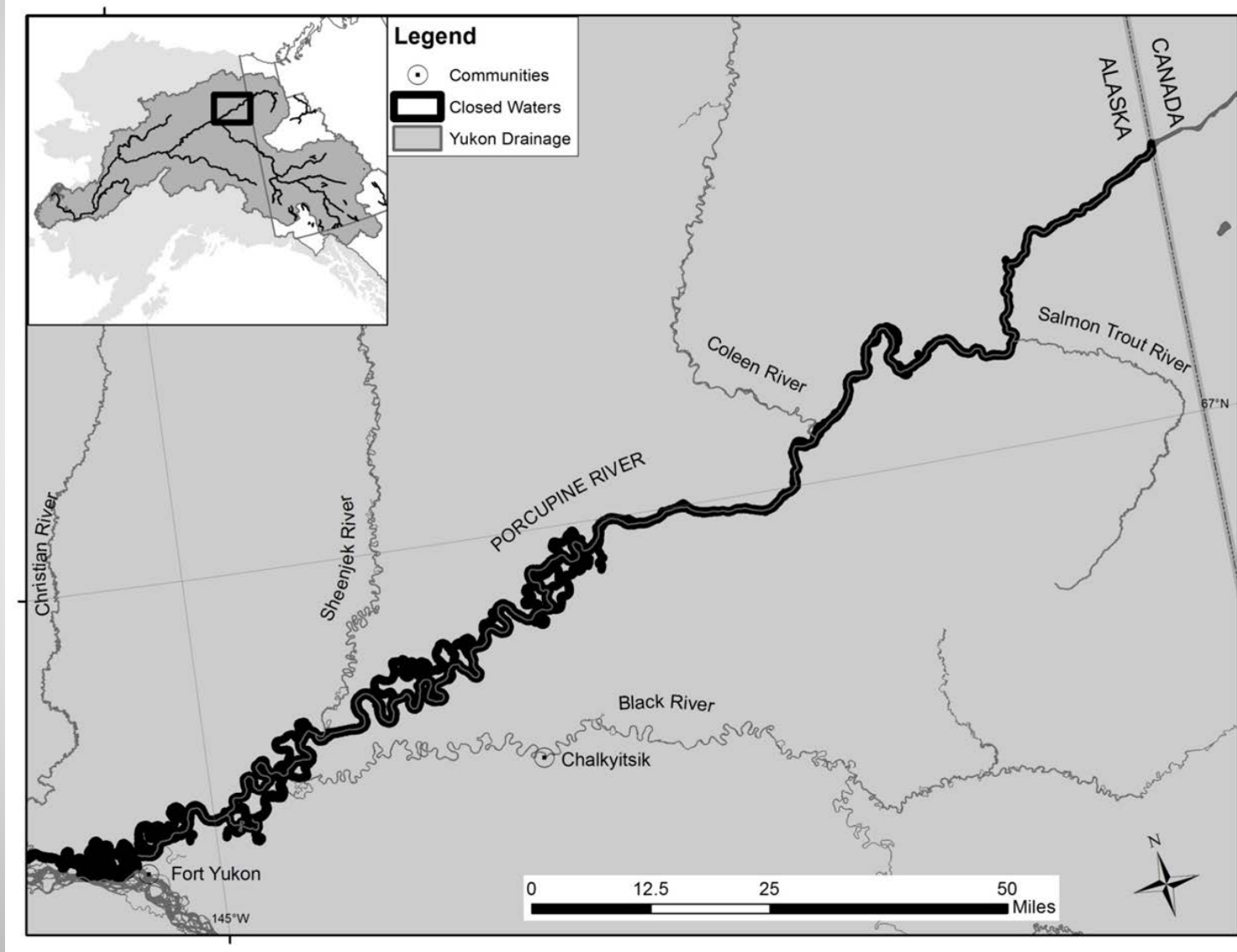


Porcupine River Fall Chum

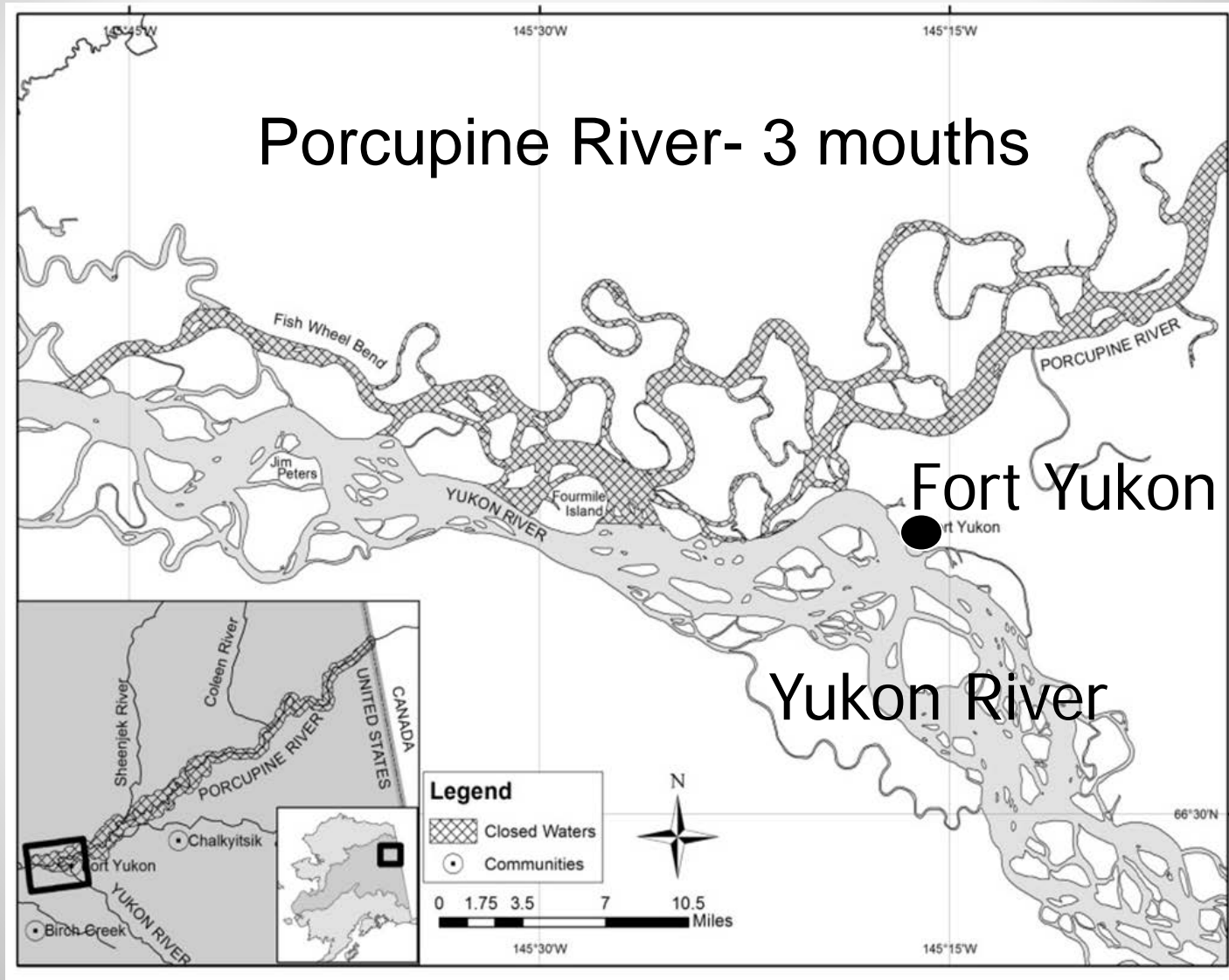
- Fall chum salmon escapements to the Canadian Fishing Branch River have not achieved the IMEG in recent years.
- Subsistence salmon fishing in the U.S. mainstem Porcupine River:
 - Open 7 days/week
 - Reduced schedule 5 days/week (\approx 2 weeks in September)



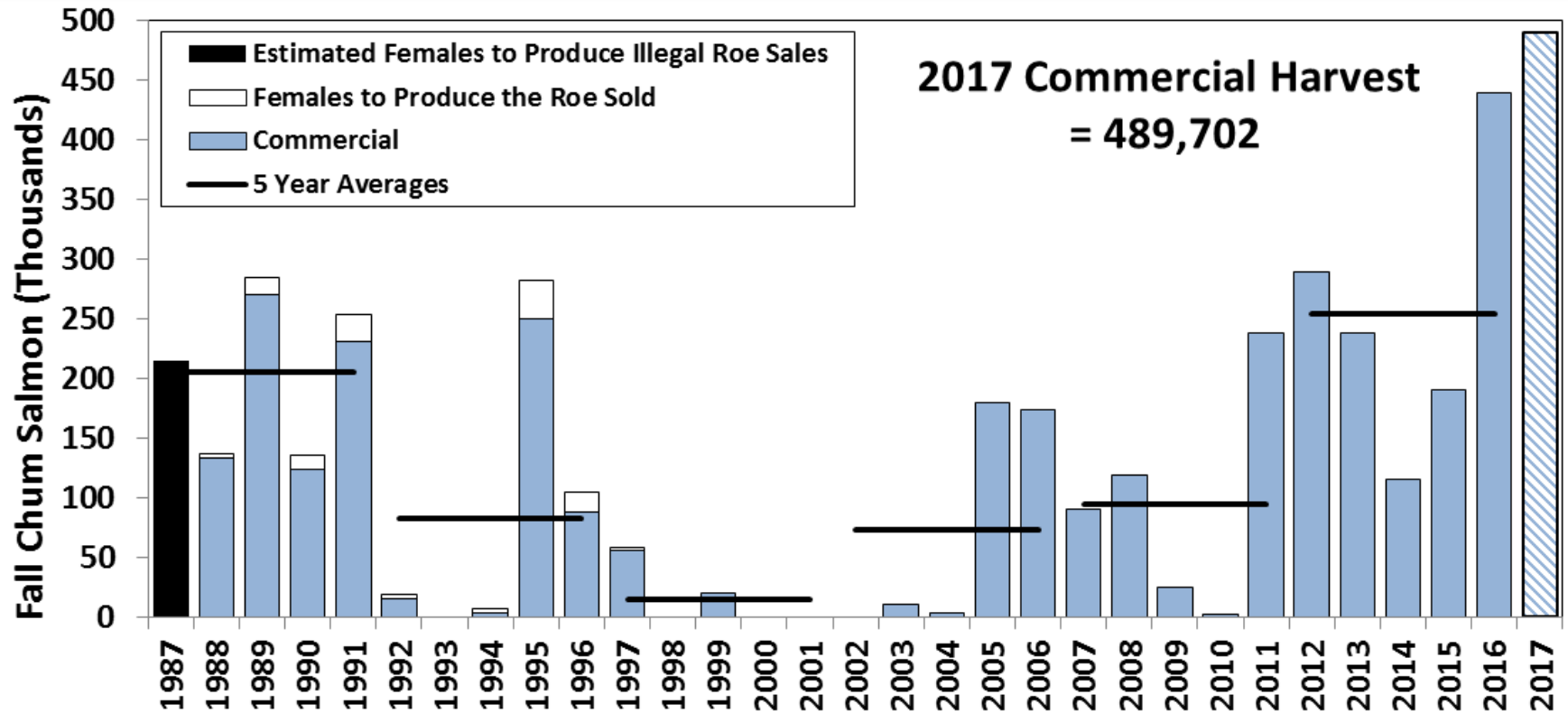
Porcupine River Restrictions



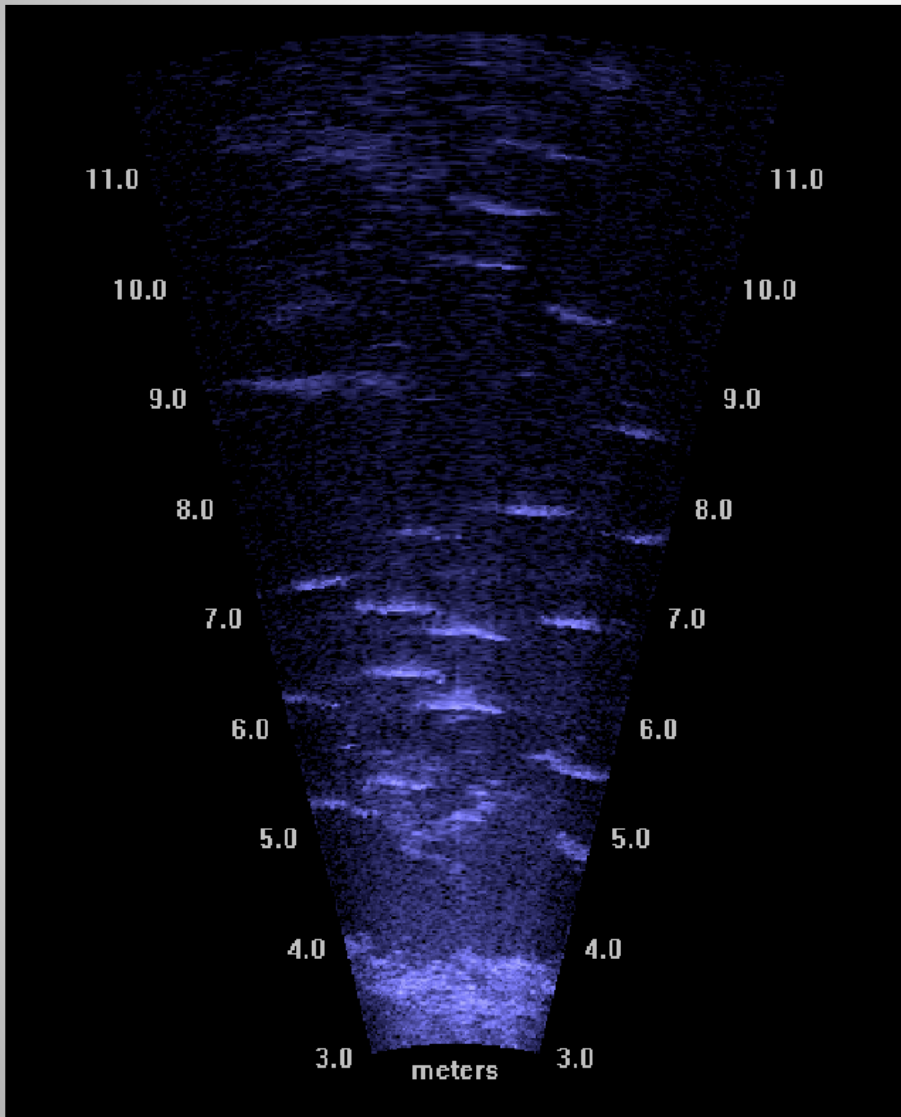
Porcupine River Restrictions



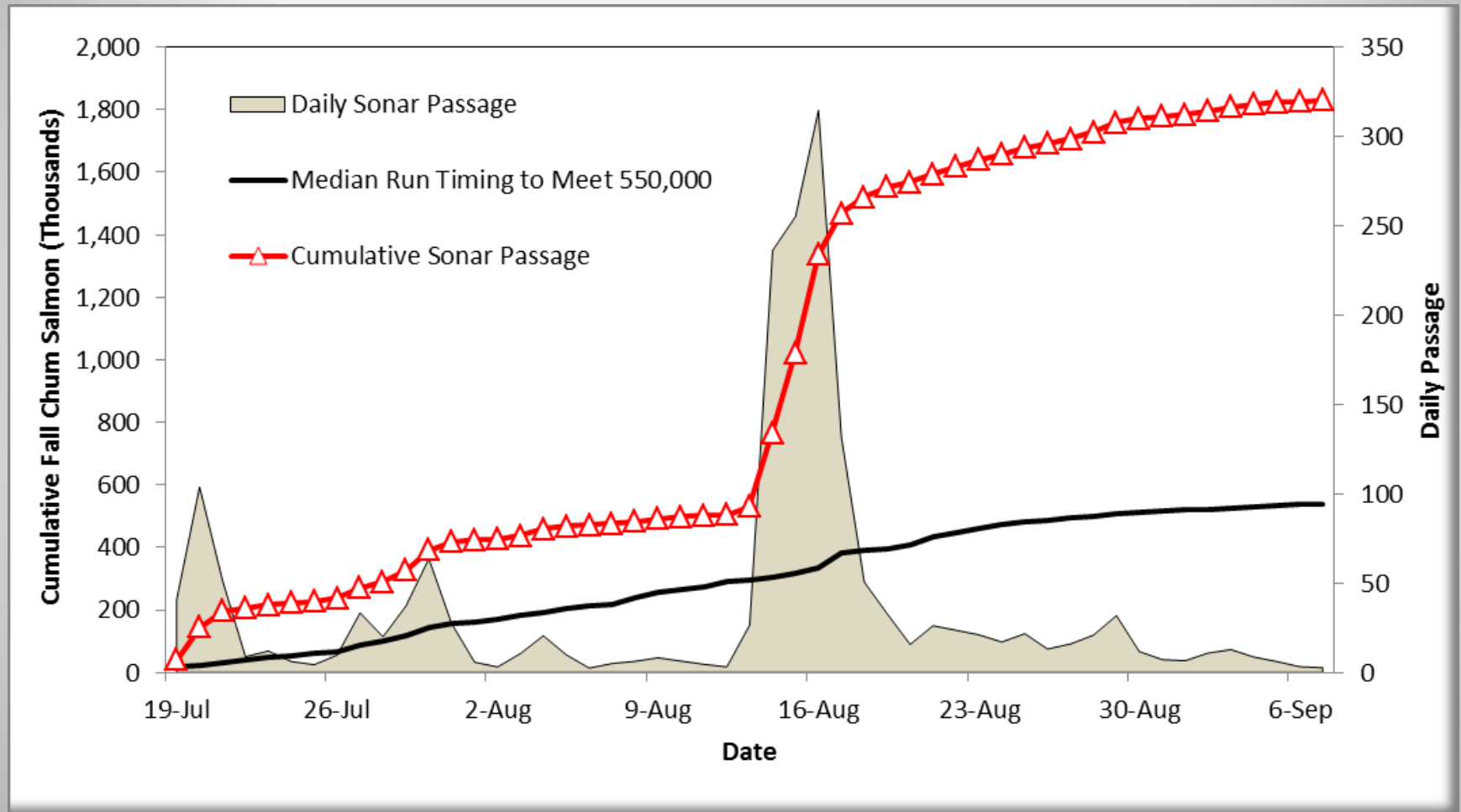
Fall Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest



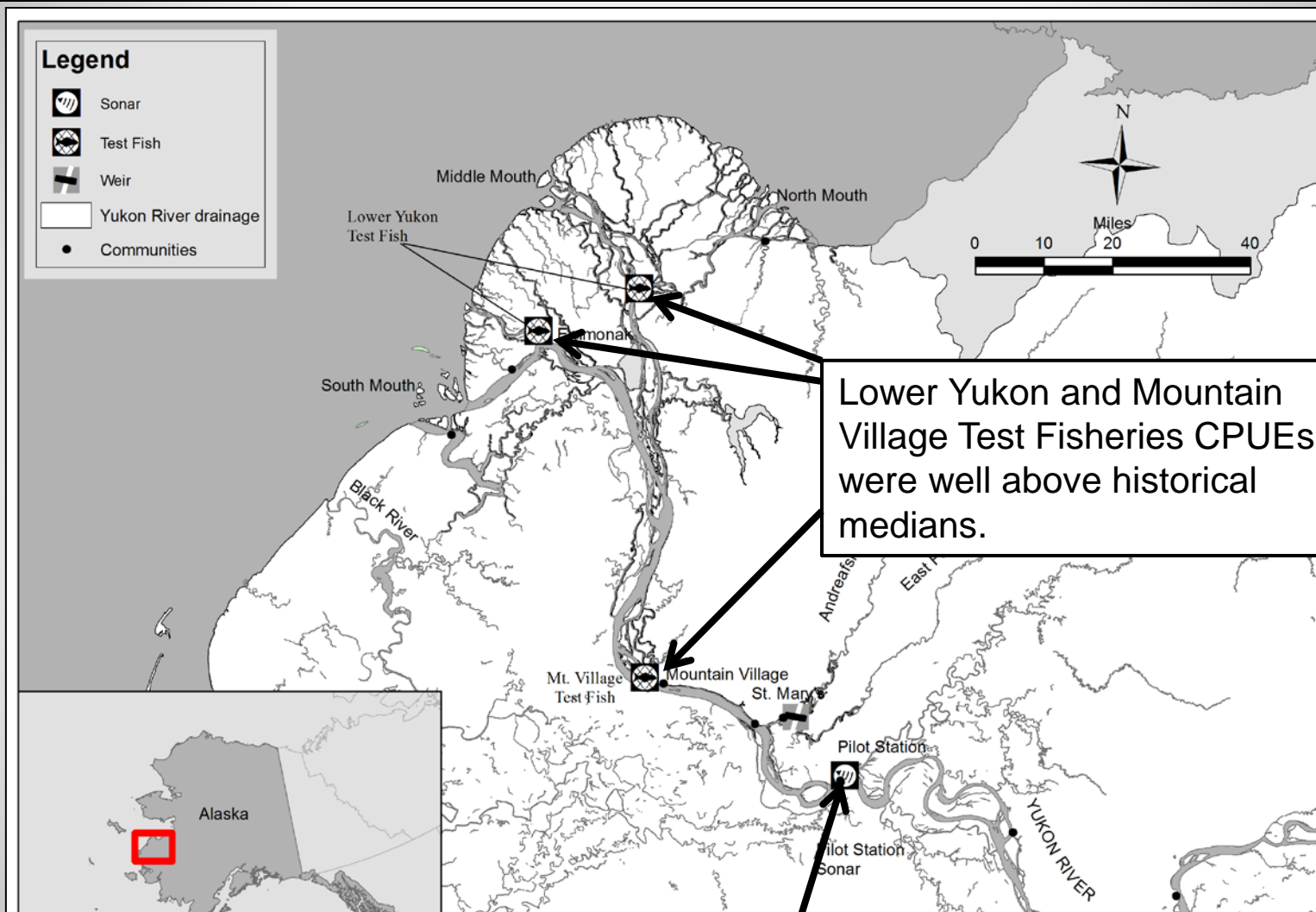
Inseason Assessment and Escapement



Fall Chum Salmon Inseason Assessment

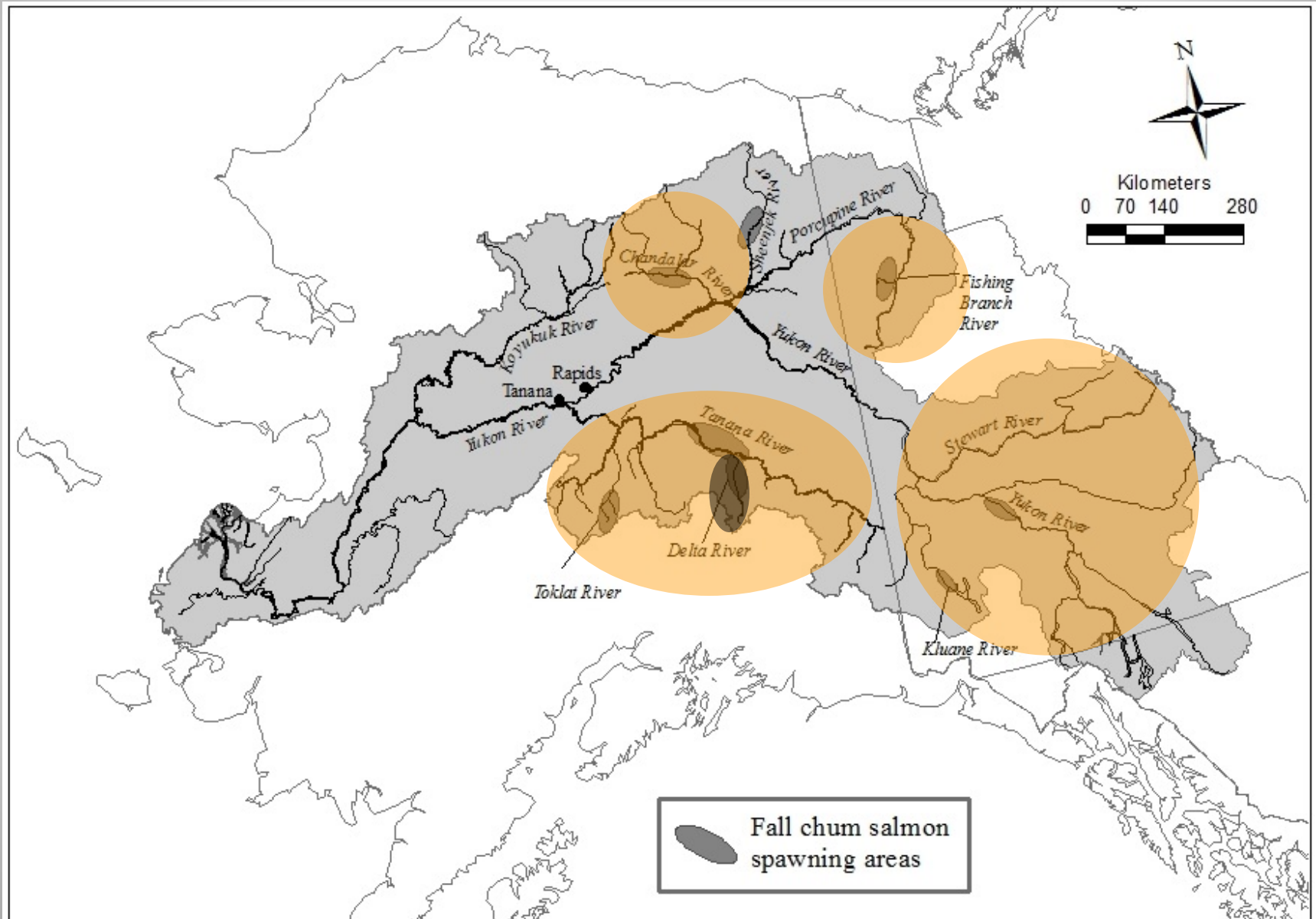


Lower River Projects



Mainstem Sonar near Pilot Station had a total cumulative passage of 1.83 Million fall chum salmon which was above the historical median of 688,000 fish.

Fall Chum Salmon Escapement



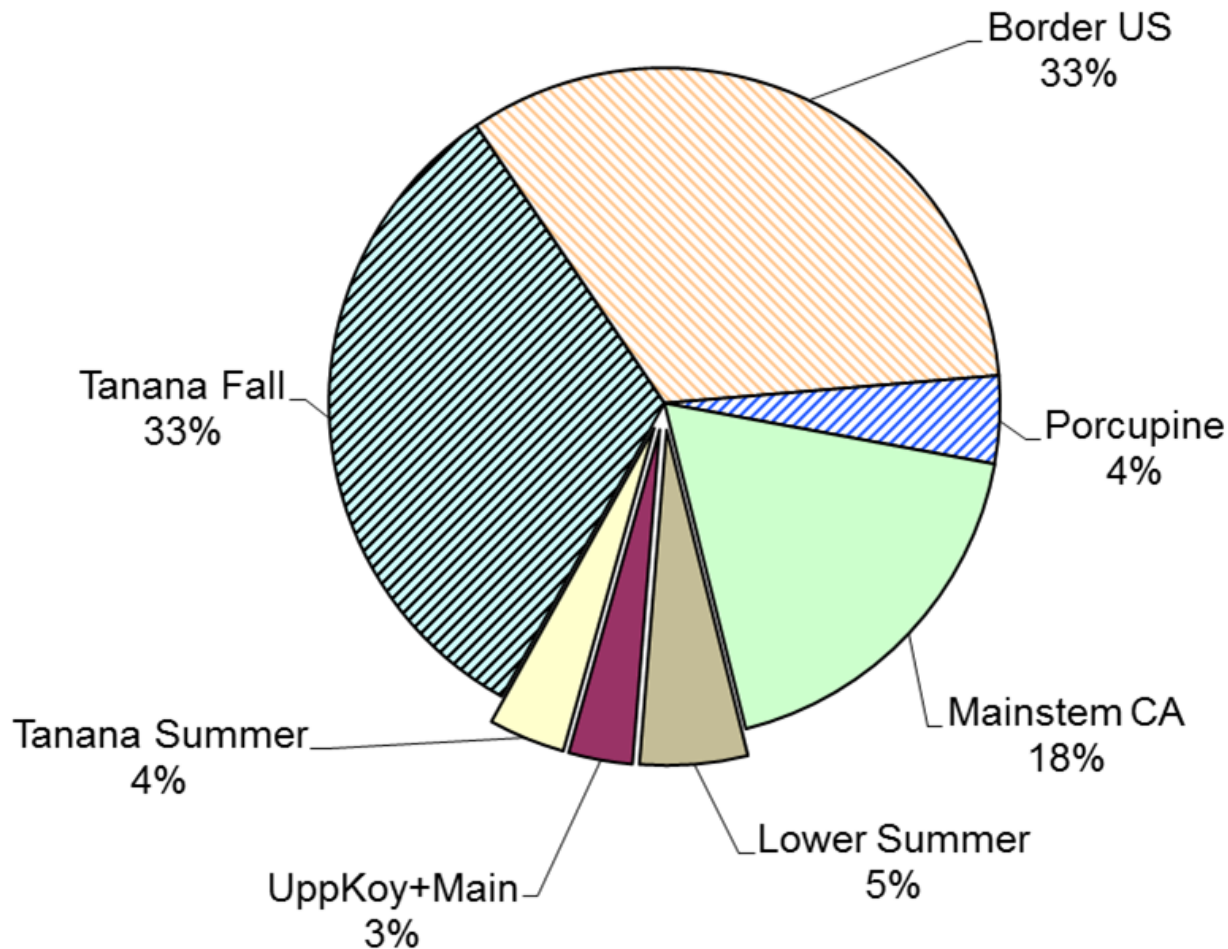
Escapement Goals and Objectives

All goals and objectives were met or exceeded for fall chum and coho salmon.

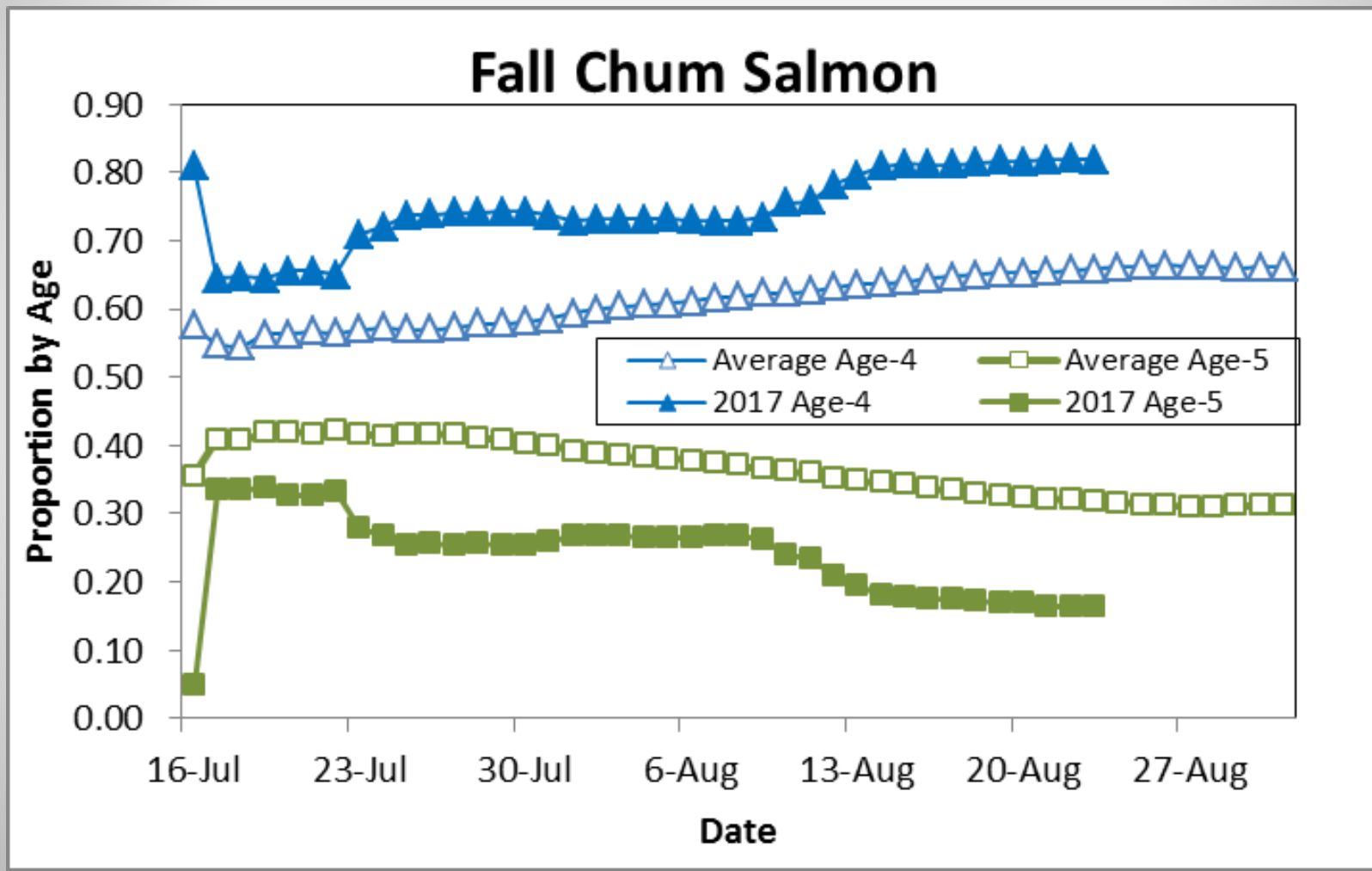
	<u>Location:</u>	<u>2017:</u>	<u>Goal:</u>
Fall chum salmon	Yukon Drainage	1.7 Million	300,000-600,000
	Delta River	45,000	6,000-13,000
	Chandalar River	509,000	74,000-152,000
	Canadian Border	402,000	70,000-104,000+
	Fishing Branch Weir	48,400	Harvest shares (TAC) 22,000-49,000
Coho salmon	Delta Clearwater	9,600	5,200-17,000

Fall Chum Salmon Genetic Composition

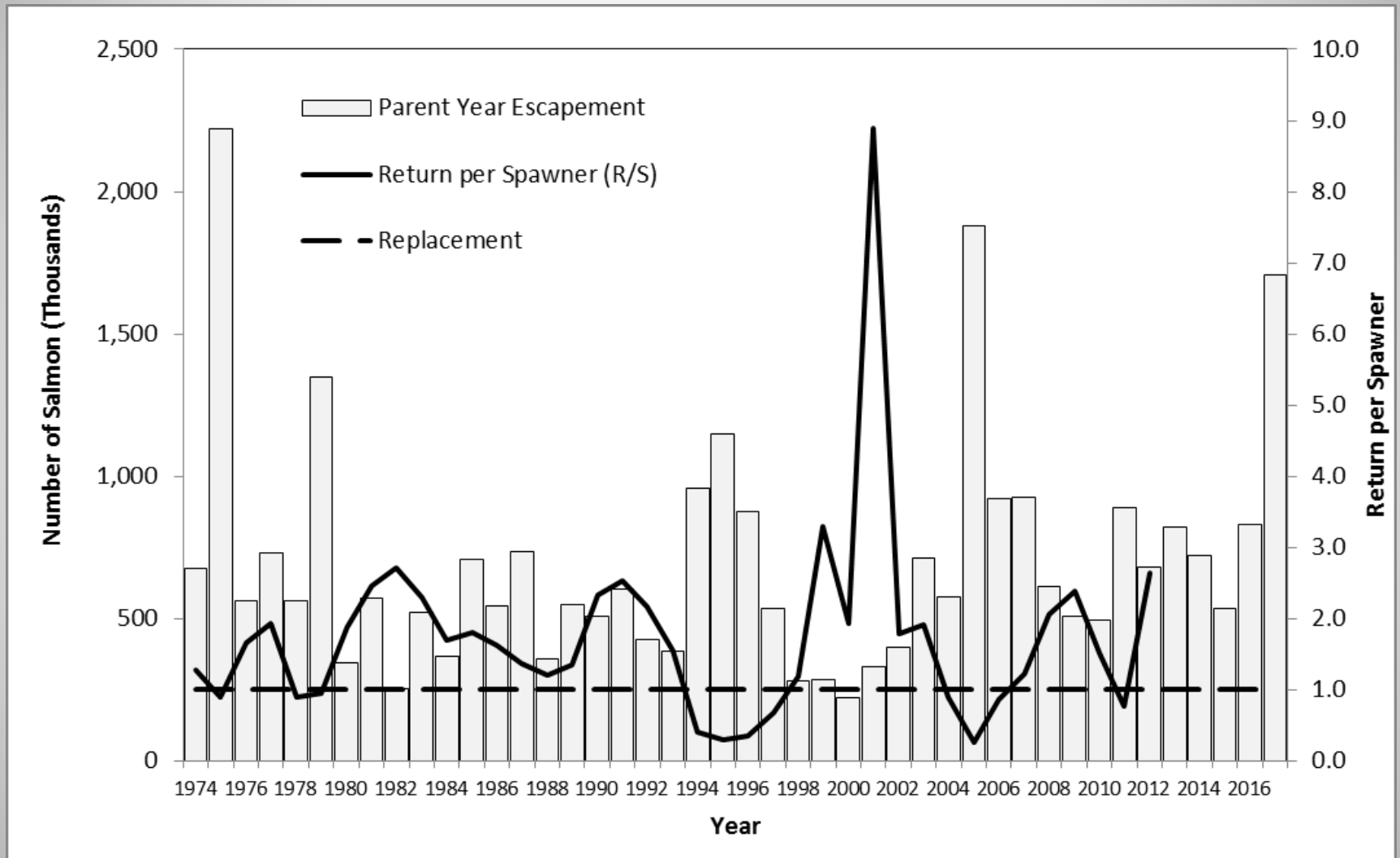
Chum salmon sampled at the mainstem sonar after July 18



Fall Chum Salmon Age-4 and Age-5



Fall Chum Salmon Stock Status



Coho Salmon Management

- Outlook for average run size (~198,000)
- Estimated 2017 run size = 315,700
- Above average run size
- Incidentally harvested in fall chum salmon directed commercial fishery.
- Under coho salmon management plan, the department had a directed commercial fishery in early September in Lower Yukon Area and early October in Upper Yukon Area.



Questions?



ADF&G Fall Season Team Contacts

jeff.estensen@alaska.gov

christine.gleason@alaska.gov

bonnie.borba@alaska.gov

907-459-7274

Area Manager

Assistant Manager

Research Biologist