

In-season subsistence of Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon

Abstract: Yukon River federal and state fishery managers have indicated a need for collecting and reporting in-season subsistence harvest information in a standardized format for use as an in-season management tool. The three Federal Regional Advisory Councils associated with the Yukon River, Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers and concerned fishers have requested assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address this issue. At the beginning of the 2002 salmon fishing season the USFWS began a pilot project to collect qualitative in-season subsistence salmon harvest data in a standardized format from active fishing households from the villages of Huslia, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross were opportunistically surveyed for harvest information. The primary goal of the pilot project was to determine subsistence fishing households progress toward meeting their subsistence salmon needs. Progress was assessed through weekly participant household visits and telephone surveys. Information collected through household surveys was organized and presented to fishery managers and the public on a weekly basis by local hire surveyors. In general, survey data indicated that most households surveyed met or nearly met their subsistence salmon needs for the 2002 season. Based on survey findings and feedback from information users, there is a need to further refine objectives and identify additional communities for future survey efforts.

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