

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) has adapted existing programs and launched new efforts to better understand how fishery closures are affecting the health and wellbeing of Yukon River communities.

The information below comes from the 2025 In-Season Harvest Survey and Understanding the Health Effects of Traditional Food Loss survey.

The information YRDFA collected documents a) how loss of salmon affect food security, diets, health, and wellbeing for Yukon communities, b) the few non-storebought food options Yukon communities have besides salmon, and c) how Yukon fishers document the need to reduce Area M fishery time as part of our ecosystem-wide salmon restoration efforts.

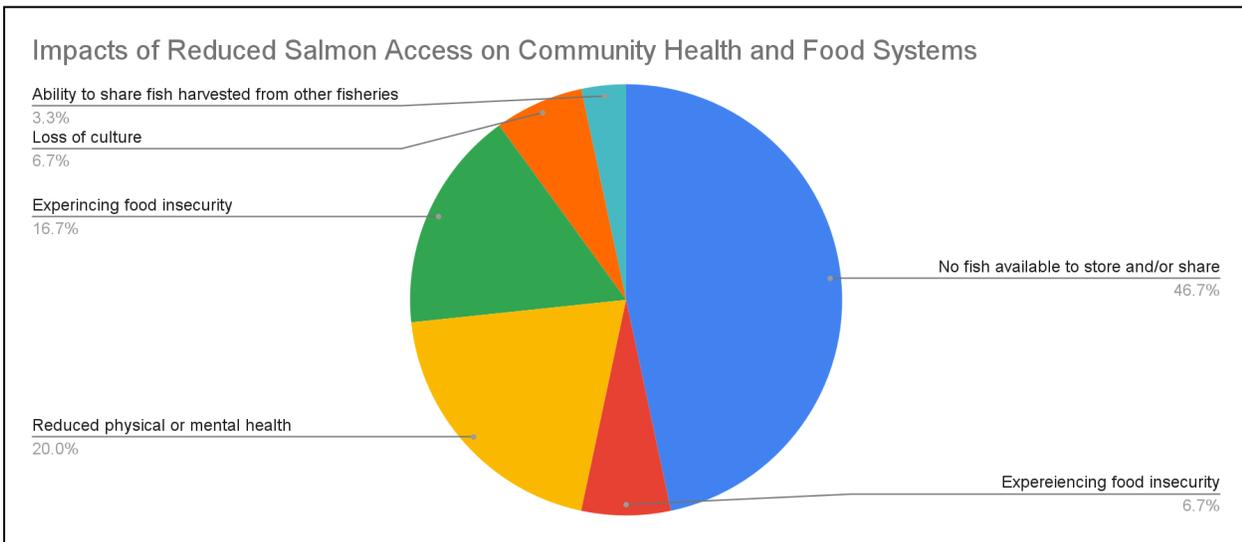


Figure1. Data from 'Understanding the Health Effects of Traditional Food Loss' survey (42 survey participants). Changes in fishing regulations and impacts on community food systems and sharing networks.

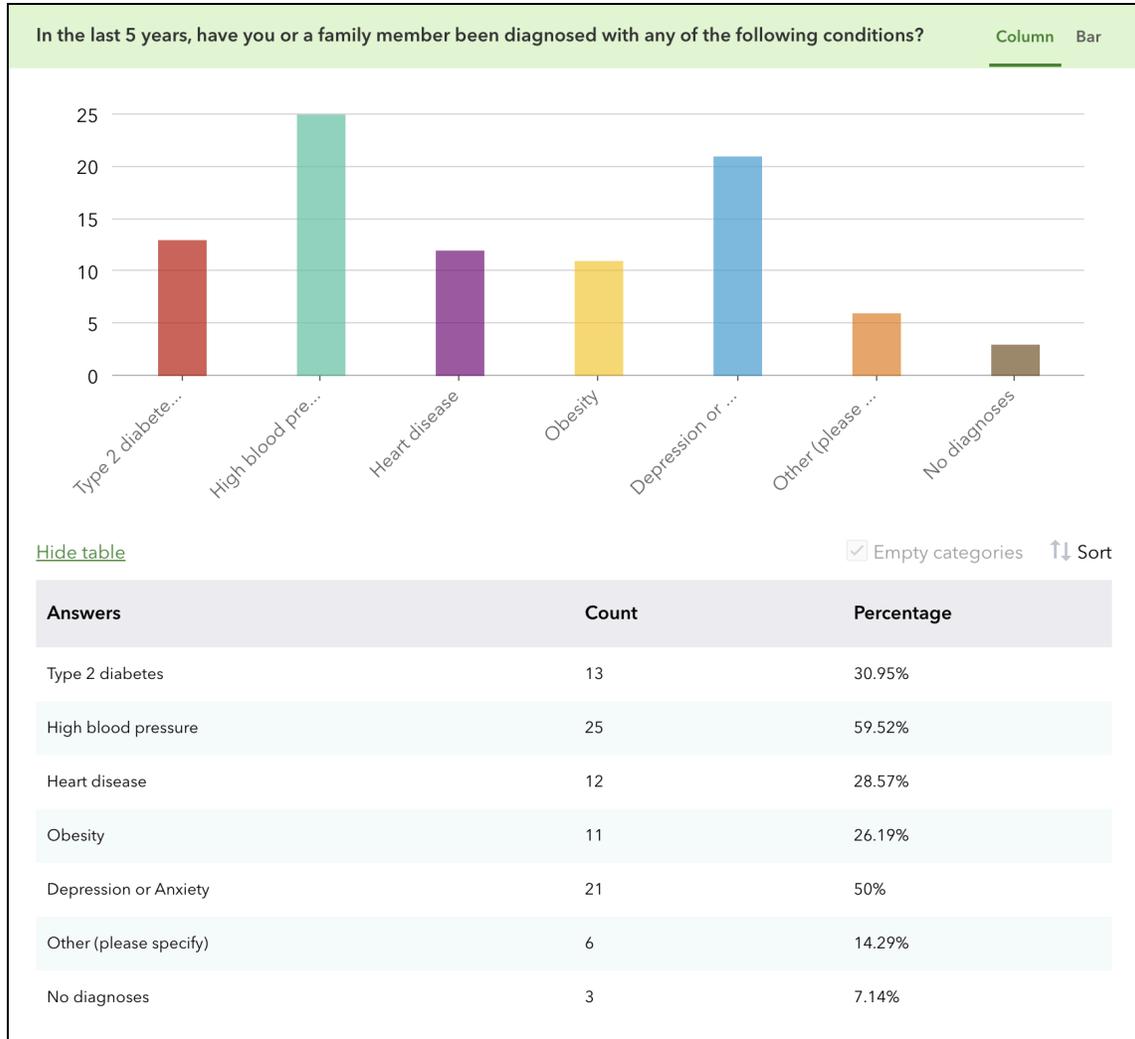


Figure 2. Data from 'Understanding the Health Effects of Traditional Food Loss' survey (42 survey participants). Reported changes in physical health of subsistence users over the past five years as salmon restrictions increased.

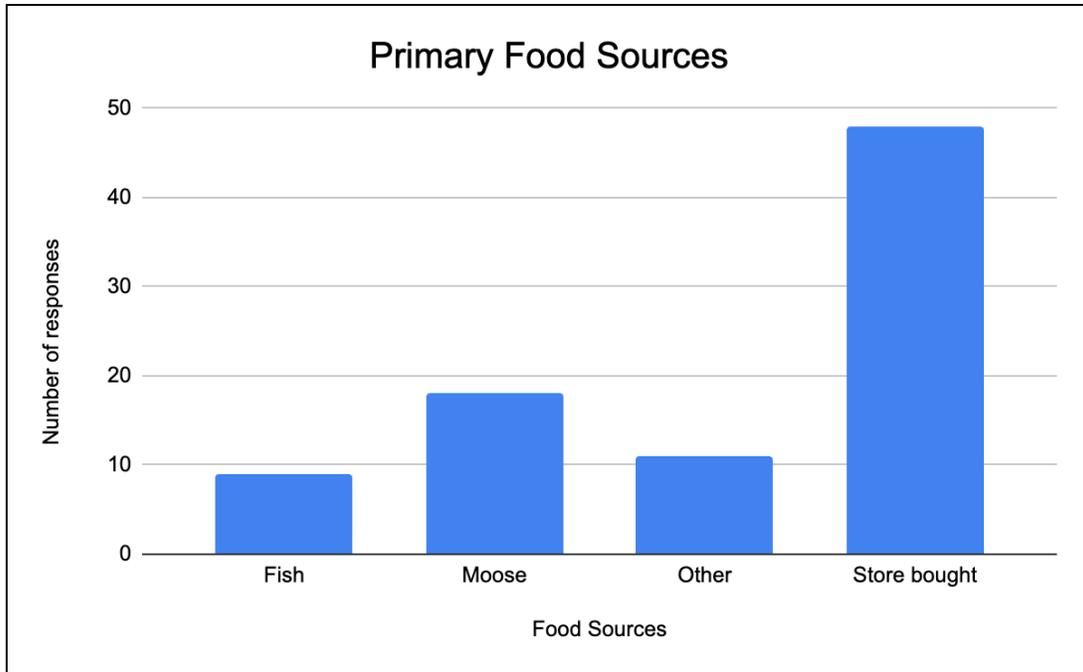


Figure 5. Data from 2025 In-season Harvest Survey Program (81 participants). Alternative foods relied on by participants using the non-fishing form.

Additional comments from the 2025 In-Season Harvest Survey Program and Understanding the Health Effects of Traditional Food Loss survey. Note: Comments addressing commercial fishing and/or Area M are highlighted.

Community	Comment
Mountain Village	waiting to see if fishing will open & waiting for berries to ripen
Huslia	Want to fish after potlatch
Huslia	Wont be fishing for awhile
Huslia	Fire across river sending a lot of smoke in town
Huslia	Was supposed to receive fish from TCC this week (7/18/2025)
Tanana	Wrote a long paper on this - should never be commercial fishing on the Yukon again if fish ever come back. Have little faith in management's ability to not run Kings into ground again.
Tanana	Not really. I just wish I could go and fish like I used to.
Tanana	Never allow commercial fishing in Yukon again if kings ever miraculously come back. Not that I don't feel a limited, carefully managed commercial could not happen, it's just I don't feel the State of Alaska Commercial Fish Division is not capable of managing it without running it into the ground again.

Tanana	Believe we must not fish for salmon till they come back is all
Tanana	subsistence should come first but obviously it doesn't.
Tanana	Need to close the fisheries that take Yukon Salmon not just the Yukon
Tanana	I got lots of negative things to say about management in the past and there is little that can be done now. Damage done. You have heard it all from me before.
Tanana	Agree with closures but need to close commercial forever in Yukon
Tanana	the bears need food
Tanana	Just wish these bad runs would be over. Use to love being at camp working on fish
Tanana	Send some fish to the bears.
Tanana	Why are we closed to all fishing when commercial fisheries still take some of the same king salmon.
Tanana	don't agree with the closures.
Tanana	Agree with closures though it's just terrible it happened
Tanana	Agree with closures but wish others had to close too. Especially commercial fisheries
Tanana	Hope something changes some year.
Tanana	If we ever get our salmon especially King salmon back there should never be commercial fishing allowed again in the Yukon. Salmon is too valuable to lives along the river. Commercial on the Yukon has never in my years been managed in a way that is protected from overfishing by management. I have zero faith it ever will.
Tanana	hope this is over with some day.
Tanana	May fish if fall chum harvesting is allowed on the early fish
Tanana	I would go to fish camp and can and make strips during fall chums if it was open before September
Tanana	If fall chum came in enough numbers to fish I would open camp otherwise it may not see a fish caught there all season. Have no more dogs to feed.
Marshall	the fishing closures are getting very old why can't they find why the fish aren't returning
Marshall	why are they starting fall chum fishing while the summer chums are still coming in to the mouth of the yukon
Marshall	i wish we can manage the fish from when fish and game started to restrict us they have been letting us use smaller and smaller gear and that is why our fish numbers dropped rapidly so I hope that will change
Marshall	is there any monitoring the fish in the ocean
Marshall	why is there no fish we have been cut off from fishing for over 20 years can you tell us that we are the reason the fish aren't coming back is that what fish and game is going to tell us again or is someone actually going to do something about the real reason the fish aren't coming back we know why the fish aren't coming back the problem is in the ocean and no one wants to listen who's pockets are the big fisheries in seem like what we tell them goes in one ear and out the other and we are tired of that we are sacrificing our way of life and our elders for what the people sitting in the high chairs

	and we can't do nothing about it and it is getting tiring
Alakanuk	We need fish openings here to store for winter. No fishing racks with fish.
Tanana	Just wish we could fish
Tanana	We don't have a Sat phone or any communications other than a radio and this year like last and maybe worse the radio announcers have been very misleading and inaccurate about openings and closure. Our camp is away from most of the others and it's hard to know the fish schedule at times. One announcer even seems like he's mumbling and doesn't care to be accurate.
Tanana	In favor of restrictions, just question why it took so long to do something. We were trying to tell the states something was wrong with king salmon in 1990 and by 1995 it was an obvious serious problem. I have written many articles etc over those years.
Tanana	Why are other commercial fisheries allowed to take Yukon king salmon and we can't even have a few for subsistence
Tanana	People need to be able to fish for subsistence
Tanana	I believe we must do something to get salmon back but everyone must help.
Tanana	Hope fall chum can be fished. Not at fish camp as not worth the effort . Just got a net in to feed 5 dogs I have.
Tanana	will start to can some whitefish soon as it seems fishing may close when fall chum get here. Retired so can stay at fish camp when no fishing happens.
Tanana	Will fish fall chum if allowed but may just leave fish camp. Lonely at camp as often we are the only 2 people at Rapids often.
Tanana	would like to fish fall chum as it is the only thing that will allow family to come to camp and put up fish. Been at camp by myself all season with no family.
Tanana	May fish fall chum if possible but don't expect it to open
Alakanuk	We need fish
Russian Mission	Improve test methods and spots along the Yukon to get more accurate info for managers to use
Russian Mission	Need fish to support healthy diet. Everything is too expensive to live on store food
Russian Mission	We are doing all we can to get these salmon back. We need the state to help in restricting deep sea fishing. We are not the problem. Please help us get our salmon back
Russian Mission	Only fishing for freshwater fish this summer. We need to get a few fish.
Russian Mission	Can ADF&G allow 4" nets in creeks open during summer? Seems like all the information that managers get is used against us. Protect these salmon still at sea
Russian Mission	Waste is part of daily life out at sea. What's left over from deep sea fishing and enters the yukon is "managed" cutting away at our lifestyle. By catch numbers are higher than what is entering the river. Help us save our salmon.
Russian Mission	was able to get a few salmon before 4" closures in June, would like to see less restrictions before the main pulse and imbetween summer/fall salmon to get a few fish. There's been a lot of sockeye filling up spawning creeks. Not many humpies.

Russian Mission	Improve test fishing grounds and methods allow us to fish before the main pulse to get a taste. Relax restrictions in between summer and fall. Allow 4" nets in creeks.
Russian Mission	Need openings for fish. Only rod and reel for fresh water fish for table food is not enough to put away.
Russian Mission	Please allow some fishing before the main pulse, in between summer and fall fish. We cannot have only meat, moose, bear, and birds. We miss fish, fishing, family teamwork, and feeding everyone. Fish camp is dry this summer. No humpies.
Russian Mission	need to update sonar and test fishery spots and methods . We have 1 channel and swift water where salmon swim in big schools. Dipping this year we caught and released a lot of small kings, smaller than chums.
Tanana	<p>Dr. Peter Deshwinets came to Tanana and was completing a report regarding the negative health impacts from the lack of King salmon in our diet, as a gathering time for our families during King salmon fishing in the summer.</p> <p>When the crash of the King salmon, Fall chum, Coho, Summer Chum happened 5 years ago. It was extremely depressing. My family lost out on generational practices of catching, cutting, smoking salmon, helping each other as a large family. Lost our dog team 4 years ago because no fall chum to feed them. Lost a freezer full of salmon we usually put away for winter. Loss causes depression, addiction, and starvation.</p>
Emmonak	I have had more visits to the clinic due to lack of fish which lead to more common cold, no omega-3 fatty acids.
Alakaunuk	Store bought foods don't have the omega-3 that the Elder and Native people do need. I do believe the people are not healthy as they used to be, they get sick more.
Rampart	Let's work together to get more salmon in the spawning grounds so we can have our health and well being back. Thank you
Unit 21D	Really don't care for the rules- regulations and the way the system is managed. Commercial fishing and money is killing a lot of the state of Alaska.
Nenana	Doctor talk to me about trying to not eat sugar It hurts. People talk about the loss. The loss of fish camp and fish camp activities.
Hooper Bay	Community needs opening subsistence life fishing when not commercial fishing. I have low blood pressure. I don't want to be diabetic. 20% of town is diabetic, because lack of subsistence and fishery closures.
Eagle	The food cost way too much in the village. Me, I can't afford the store food. Fish (salmon) is a healthy food source and now it's almost gone.
Fort Yukon	No fish camps or teaching our youth. Our youth are lost without the knowledge of preserving culture and our way of life.
Nenana	Never give up. Make overfishing cut back.
Circle	<p>Doctor has recommended I eat more fruit and vegetables! Stay healthy from fatty meat from store bought meat</p> <p>Need traditional food because it has nothing added to it</p> <p>No more fish camps</p> <p>Activities that take place in fish camps, cutting fish, drying fish, canning fish.</p>

Nulato	It caused our youth to lose subsistence values (how to cut, cook, prepare fish, etc) We need the nutrients fish have to maintain healthy lives. Losing our values of native culture.
Tanana	We have no salmon and it is hard. In the current times, life will get harder for our people who are already living below the poverty level. Subsistence fishing is not enough to feed people much less our dogs anymore. Our loss of culture and family gathering time is no more, further weakening the family system.
Rampart and Manly	Restricted so no fishing- so this has affected every aspect of our lives to where we can't store or share.
Unit 21D	Stop trawl and Area M so we can have our fish
Beaver/Fort Yukon	Stop trawling and establish a conservation corridor in Area M, so we can fish again!