

# Yukon River Salmon Agreement Overview



AYK Board of Fisheries  
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RC 3, Tab 12

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# Outline

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1. Treaty overview
2. Decision-making authorities
3. Treaty role in Alaska's fisheries
4. Obligations under YRSA
5. 7-Year Agreement

# Why do we have a Treaty?

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## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Treaty Between the Government of Canada and the  
Government of the United States of America Concerning  
Pacific Salmon

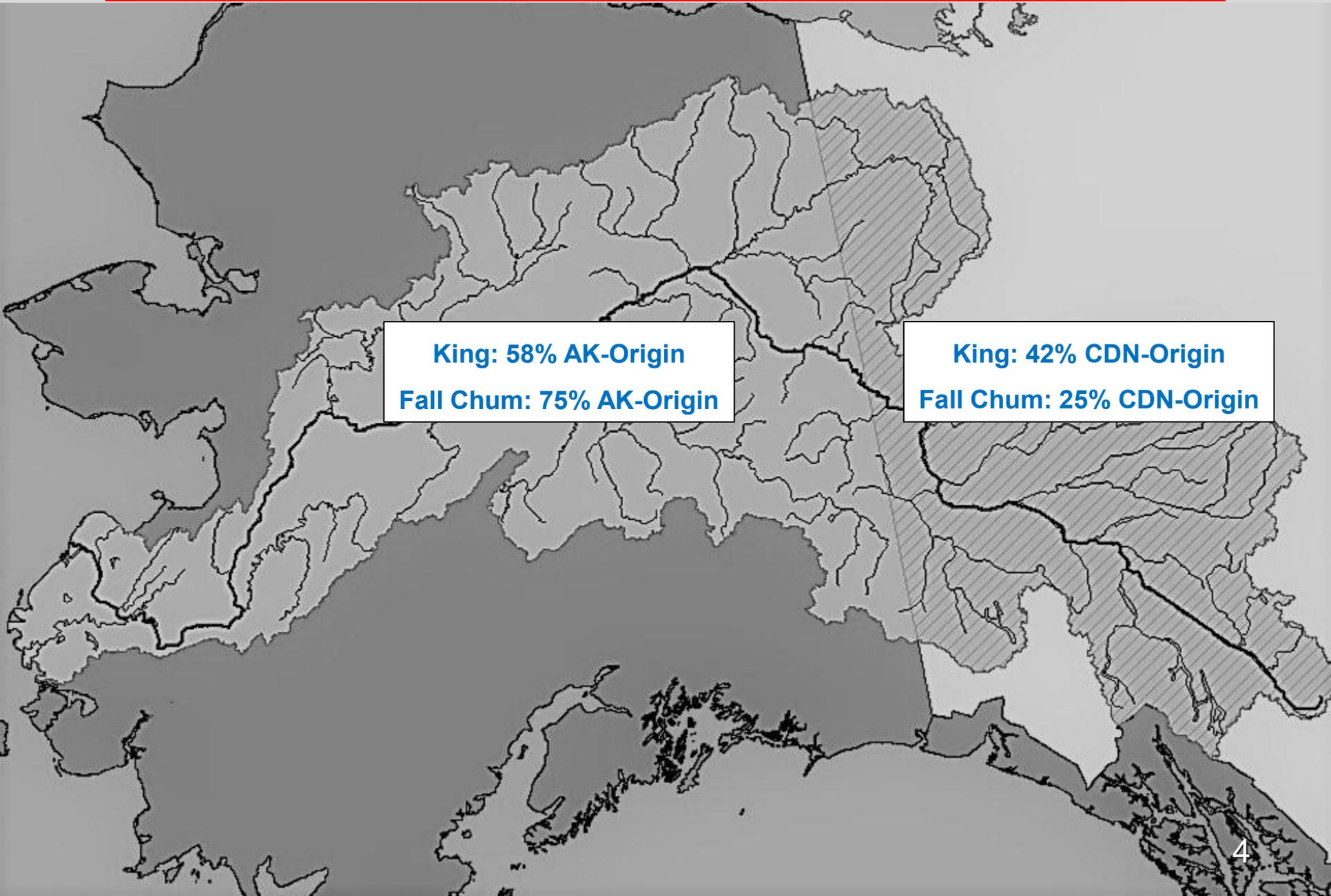


*Prepared by the  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
January 2020*



U.S. and Canada entered into the Pacific Salmon Treaty in 1985 to **conserve** and **allocate** salmon harvests of inter-jurisdictional fish.

# Yukon Transboundary Stocks



# Treaty Principles

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- Conservation and sustained yield
- Prevent overfishing
- Provide for optimum production
- Fair sharing (the equity principle)
- Avoid undue disruption of existing fisheries
- Reduce interceptions

# 2019 PST Agreement

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## 8 Chapters:

1. Transboundary Rivers
2. Northern BC & Southeast Alaska Boundary Area
3. Chinook Salmon
4. Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon
5. Coho Salmon
6. Southern BC and Washington Chum Salmon
7. General Obligations
8. Yukon River

# Yukon River Salmon Agreement

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- Signed in 2002
- International commitment to the restoration, conservation and management of salmon
- Yukon River Panel
  - Advisory body to management entities
- Joint Technical Committee as technical advisory body to Panel
- Established a bilateral Restoration & Enhancement Fund to support projects

# Yukon River Salmon Act

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Congressional Act, sets forth U.S. rules of engagement

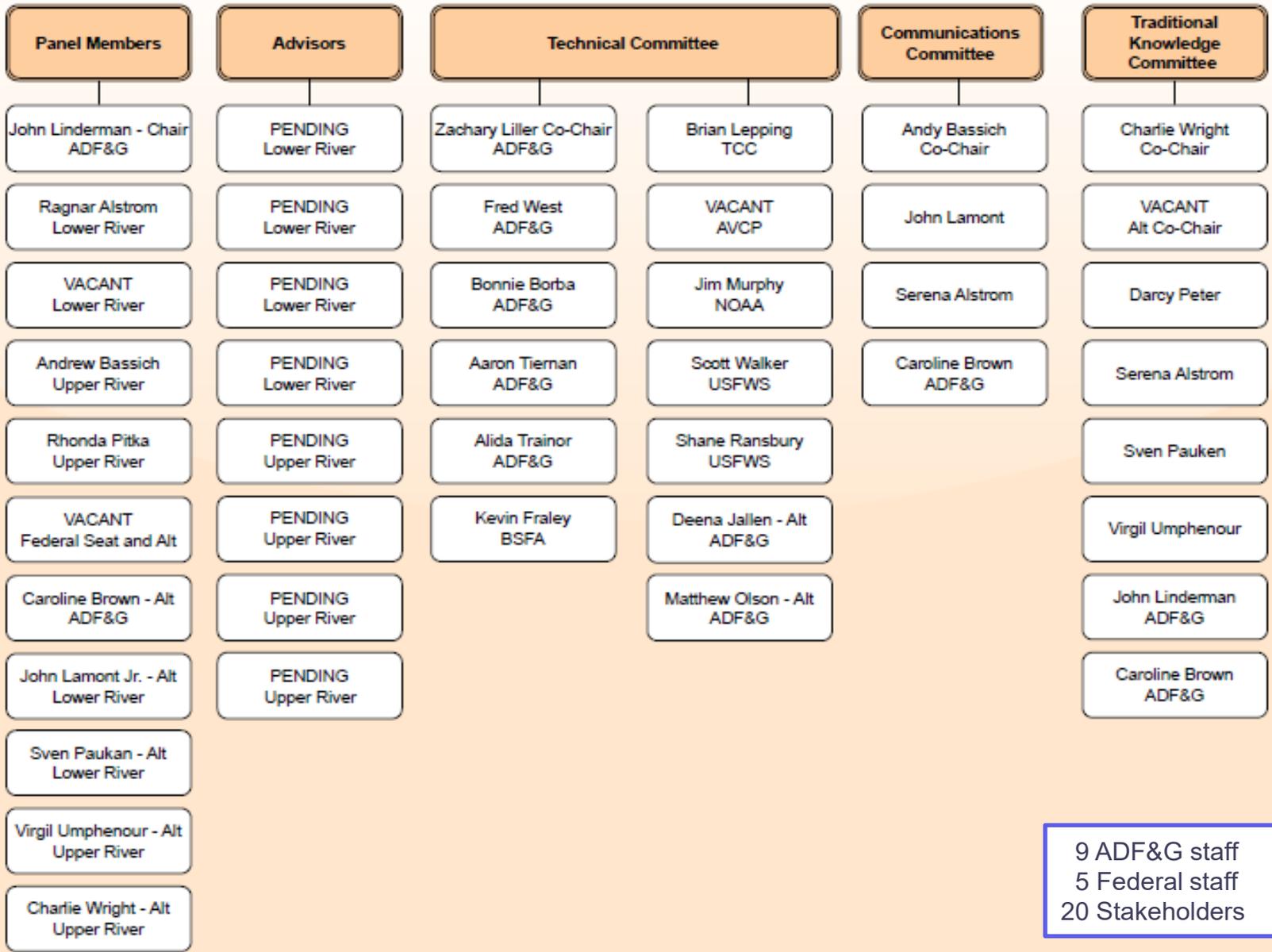
- Establishes Panel, Alternates, & Advisors
- Defines representation, appointment process, compensation, and function.
- Sec. 205: Authority & Responsibility:  
“The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall be the responsible management entity for the United States for the purposes of any agreement with Canada regarding management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada.”

# Decision-Making Authorities

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- Consensus of U.S and Canada required to recommend action
  - Authority for U.S. decision-making is vested with ADF&G
  - Panel members serve an advisory role
- \*\* YRSA does not have regulatory authority

# U.S. Yukon Delegation



9 ADF&G staff  
5 Federal staff  
20 Stakeholders

# Chp 8: Scope

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**Scope**: Salmon that originate in the **Canadian** portion of the Yukon River

**Oversight**: Yukon Panel established for “*salmon originating in the Yukon River.*”

**Species**: Chinook, Fall Chum, Coho\*

\* may include Porcupine coho if sufficient data become available

Implementation requires intensive bilateral cooperation and coordination

# PST General Obligations

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1. Manage to achieve bilaterally-agreed to escapement goals for Chinook and fall chum stocks.
2. Manage consistent with catch sharing arrangements.
3. Conduct fishery and stock assessments.
4. Bilateral coordination & cooperation.



# Chp 8: Structure

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- General
- Yukon River Panel
- Joint Technical Committee
- Rebuilding Mainstem Yukon River Stocks
- Porcupine River
- Habitat
- Restoration & Enhancement
  - R&E Fund (Attachment C)
- Escapement Goals & Harvest Sharing (Appendix 1 & 2)

# Management Objectives

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<b>Mainstem Yukon</b>	Chinook	*71,000
<b>Mainstem Yukon</b>	Fall Chum	70,000-104,000
<b>Fishing Branch</b>	Fall Chum	22,000-49,000

- Developed bilaterally by the JTC
- Recommended bilaterally by the Panel
- Apply to stocks originating in Canada
- Underpin all harvest-sharing arrangements

\*\* Established under the 7-Year Agreement

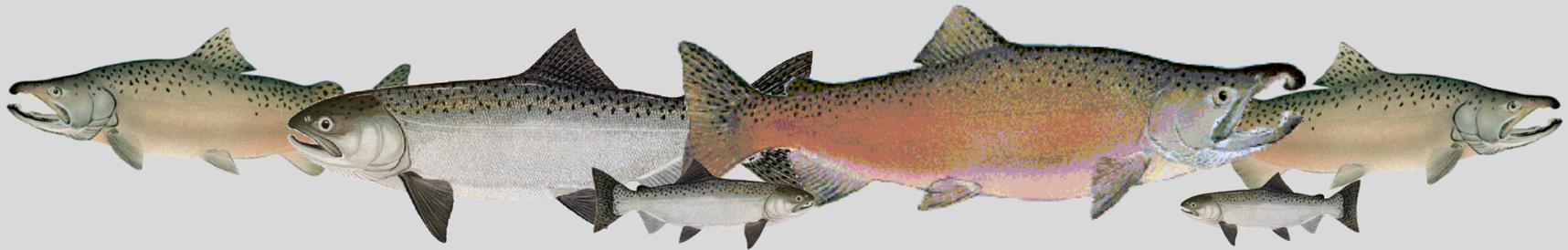
# Harvest Sharing

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		TAC	CAN Share
<b>Mainstem</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	< 110,000	20%-26%
		> 110,000	+ 50% of TAC >110,000
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>Fall Chum</b>	< 120,000	29%-35%
		> 120,000	+ 50% of TAC >120,000

*“the United States shall manage its fishery with a view to delivering to the Alaska-Yukon border the agreed spawning objective plus the midpoint of the Canadian guideline harvest range;”*

# 7-Year Agreement



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada



# Elements- Fisheries

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1. Pauses all directed commercial, sport, domestic, & PU fisheries targeting Canadian-origin Chinook
2. Sets forth a rebuilding target of 71,000 Chinook
3. Allows for subsistence harvest opportunity in circumstances where the run is projected to exceed the rebuilding target
4. Acknowledges importance for ceremonial use and transmission of cultural knowledge and allows for limited harvest opportunity for these purposes
5. Alaska shall continue to minimize incidental harvest of Chinook in all other mainstem fisheries



# Elements- Research



6. Stock assessment and scientific research on Chinook health to better understand the causes of low run abundances and identify possible solutions.
7. Traditional and local ecological knowledge research on Chinook health to better understand the causes of low run abundances and to identify possible solutions.
8. Development of a rebuilding plan



# Elements- Research



9. Per Chp 8, section 12, Alaska will maintain efforts to increase the in-river run by reducing marine catches and bycatches of Yukon River Chinook to the extent practicable
  
10. Acknowledges the depressed status due to a suite of factors. Commits the Parties to:
  - work collaboratively on habitat and stock restoration activities and support research
  - seek increased funding contributions



# Progress



- Yukon closed to all directed Chinook fishing
- Actions to reduce incidental catch in non-target fisheries
- Educational permits established under 5 AAC 93.212
  - (b) teaching and preserving cultural practices
  - (c) for ceremonial, funerary, or memorial purposes related to traditional culture purposes
- ADF&G has continued efforts to reduce bycatches in federal & state managed fisheries
- Contracted with EcoFish Research to facilitate the development of a rebuilding plan.
  - 3 special sessions have occurred
  - Framework completed
  - Steering Committee to guide framework tasks & public outreach

**Thank you!**

