



Yukon River Stock Status and Fishery Overview

A Report to the Alaska Board of
Fisheries

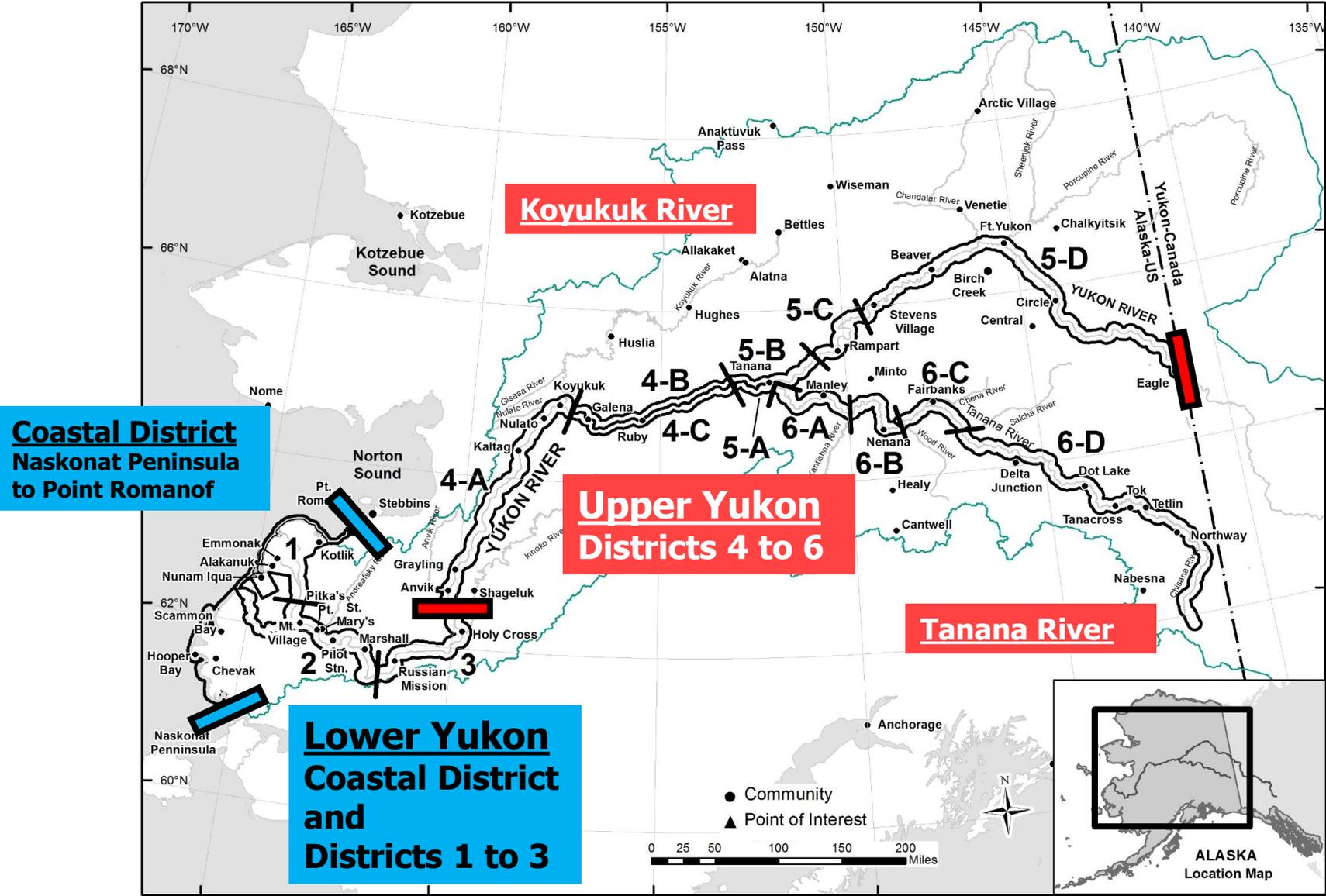
Presented by Deena Jallen and
Matt Olson

Yukon River Summer and
Fall Season Area Management
Biologists
November 2025



RC 3: Oral Reports, Tab 13
RC 3: Written Report, Tab 4

Yukon area management districts



Coastal District
Naskonat Peninsula
to Point Romanof

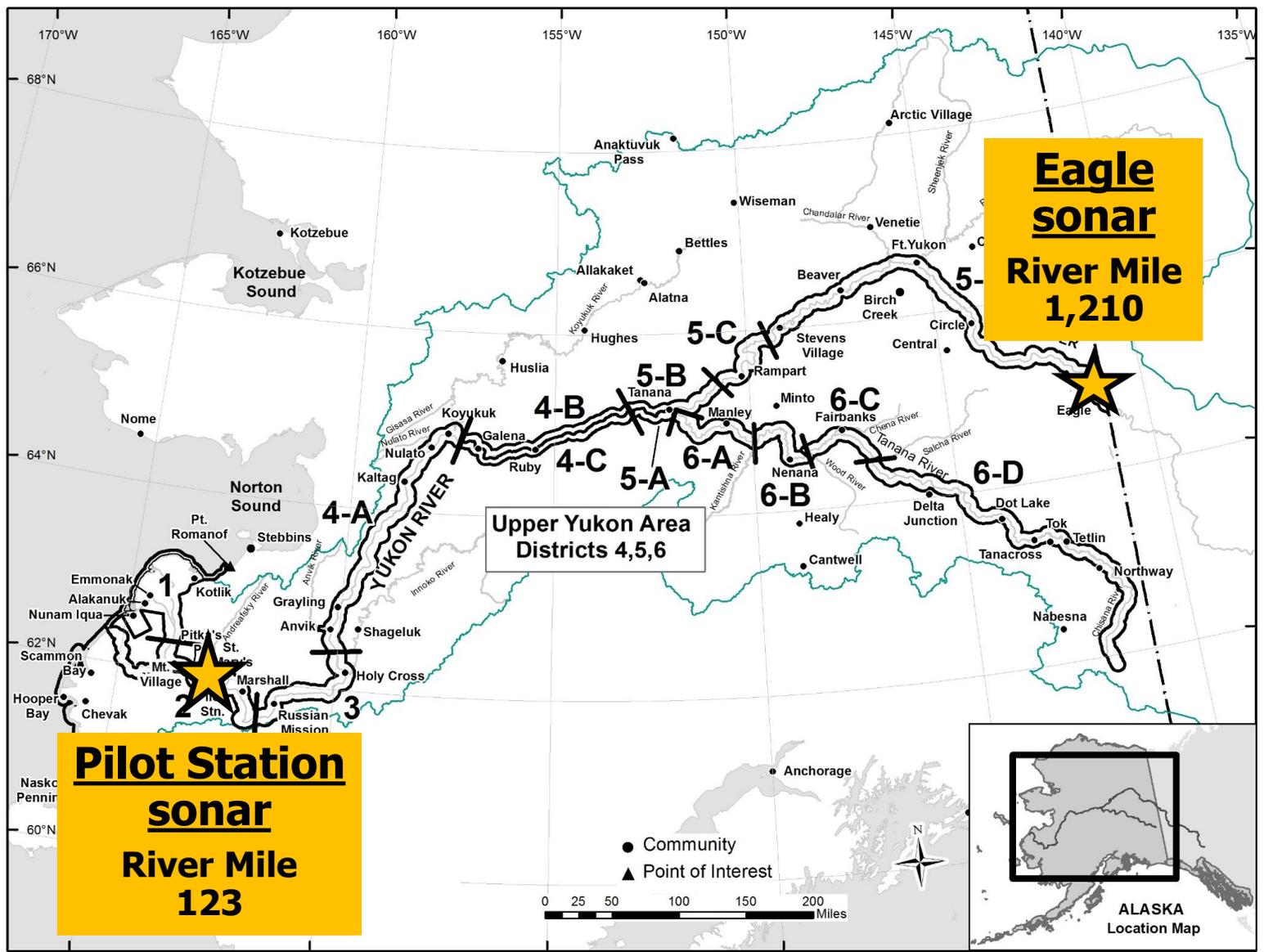
Koyukuk River

Upper Yukon
Districts 4 to 6

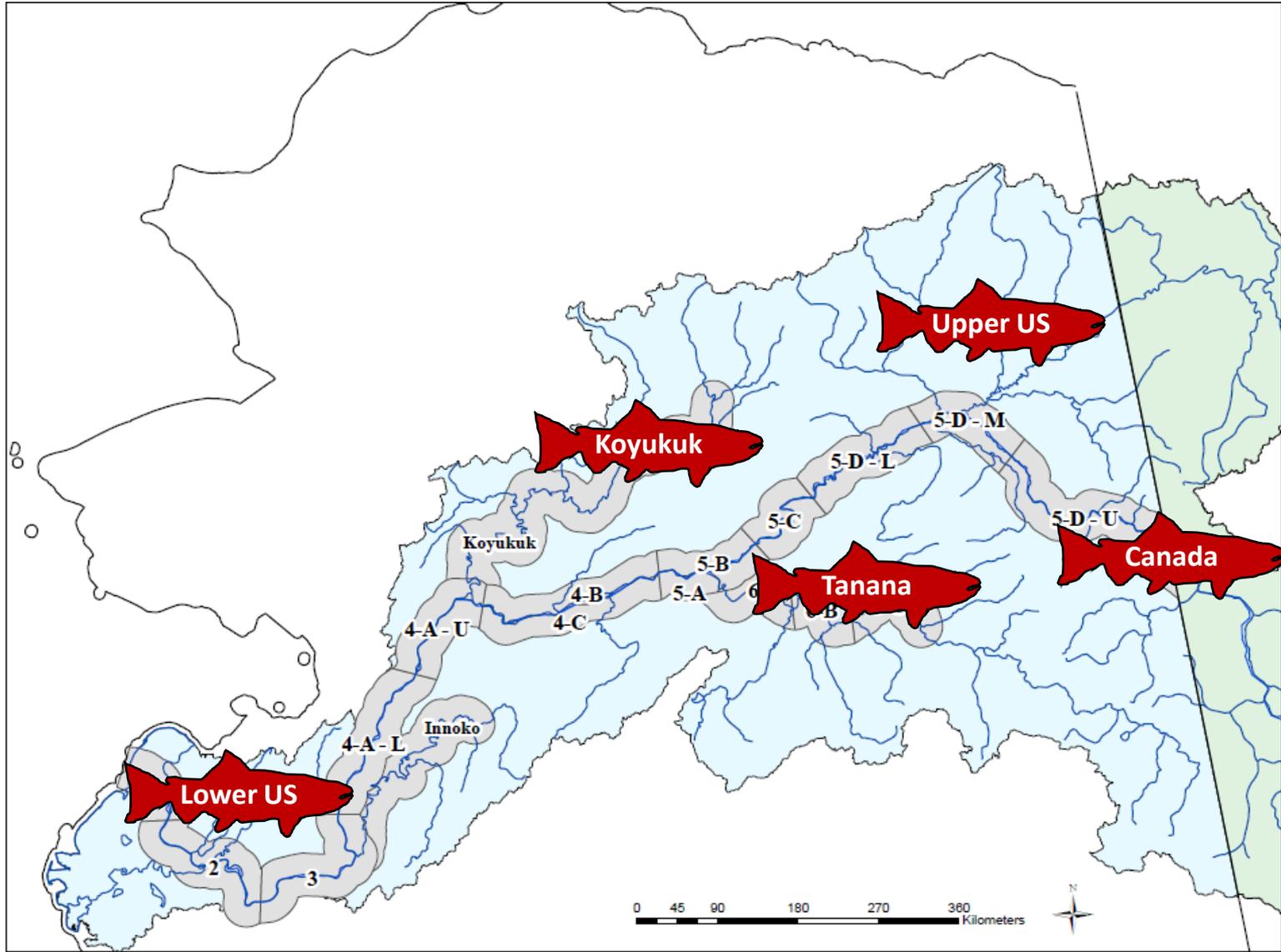
Tanana River

Lower Yukon
Coastal District
and
Districts 1 to 3

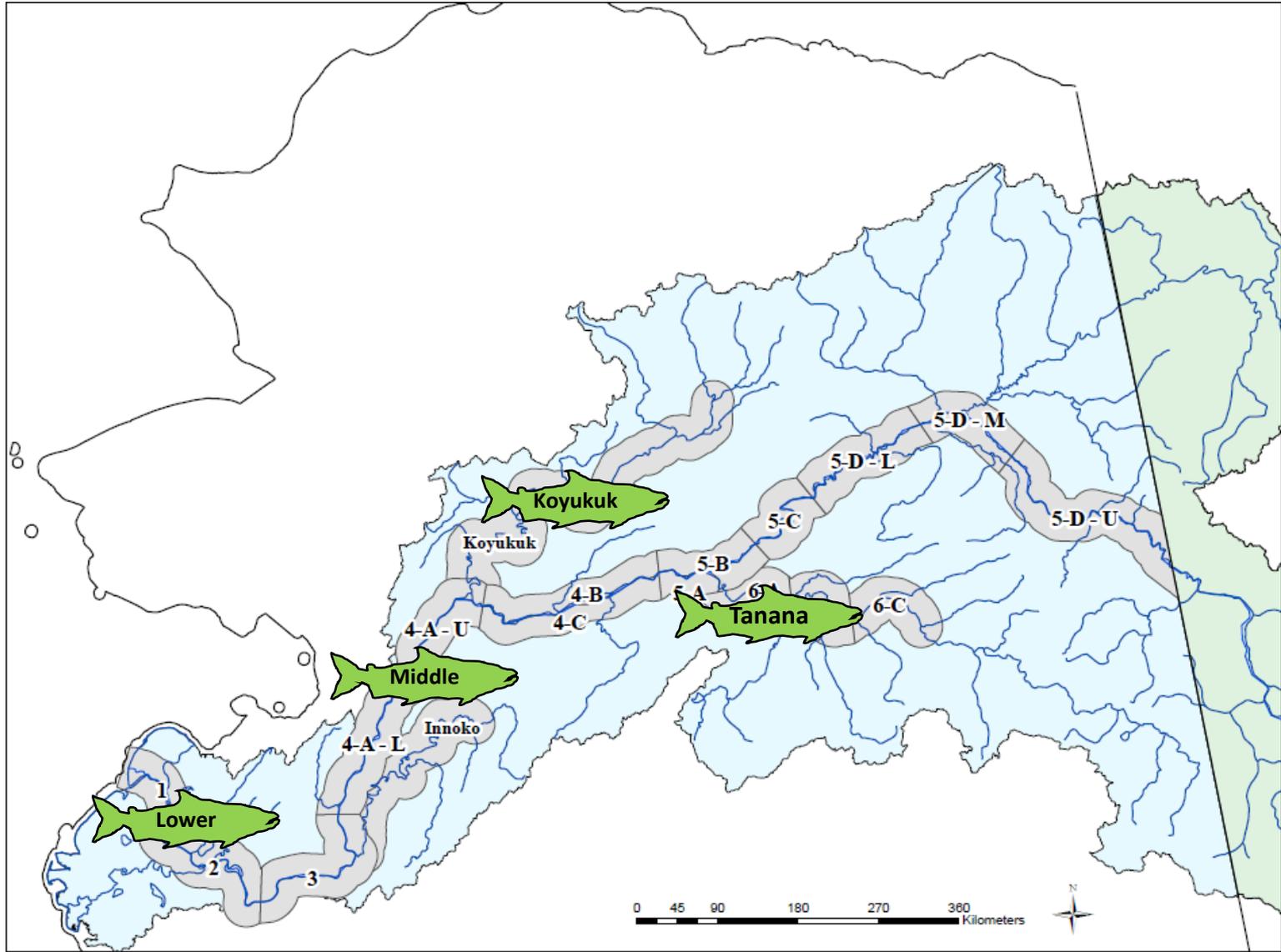
Mainstem sonar projects



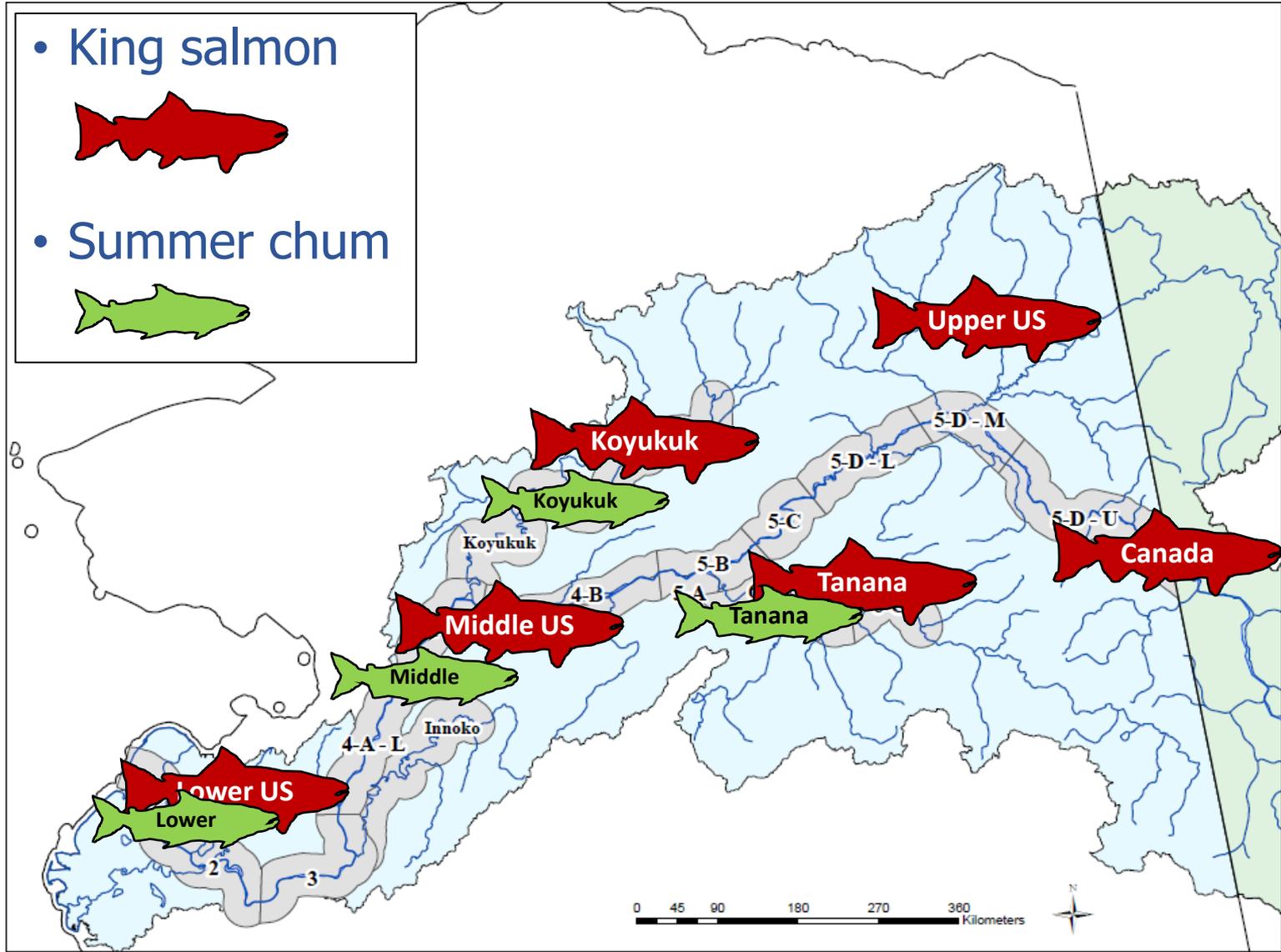
King salmon stock distribution



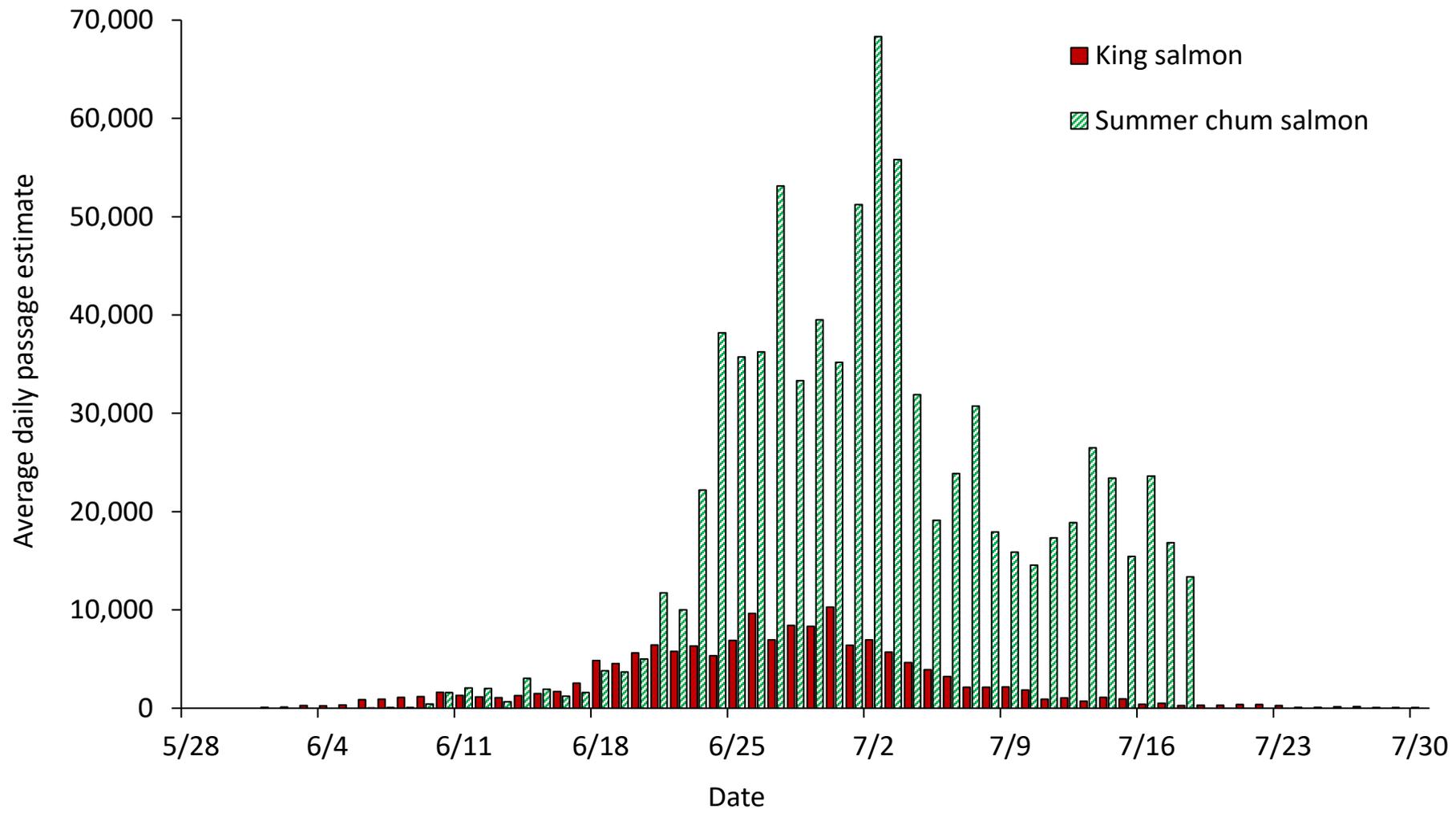
Summer chum salmon stock distribution



King and summer chum salmon distribution overlap

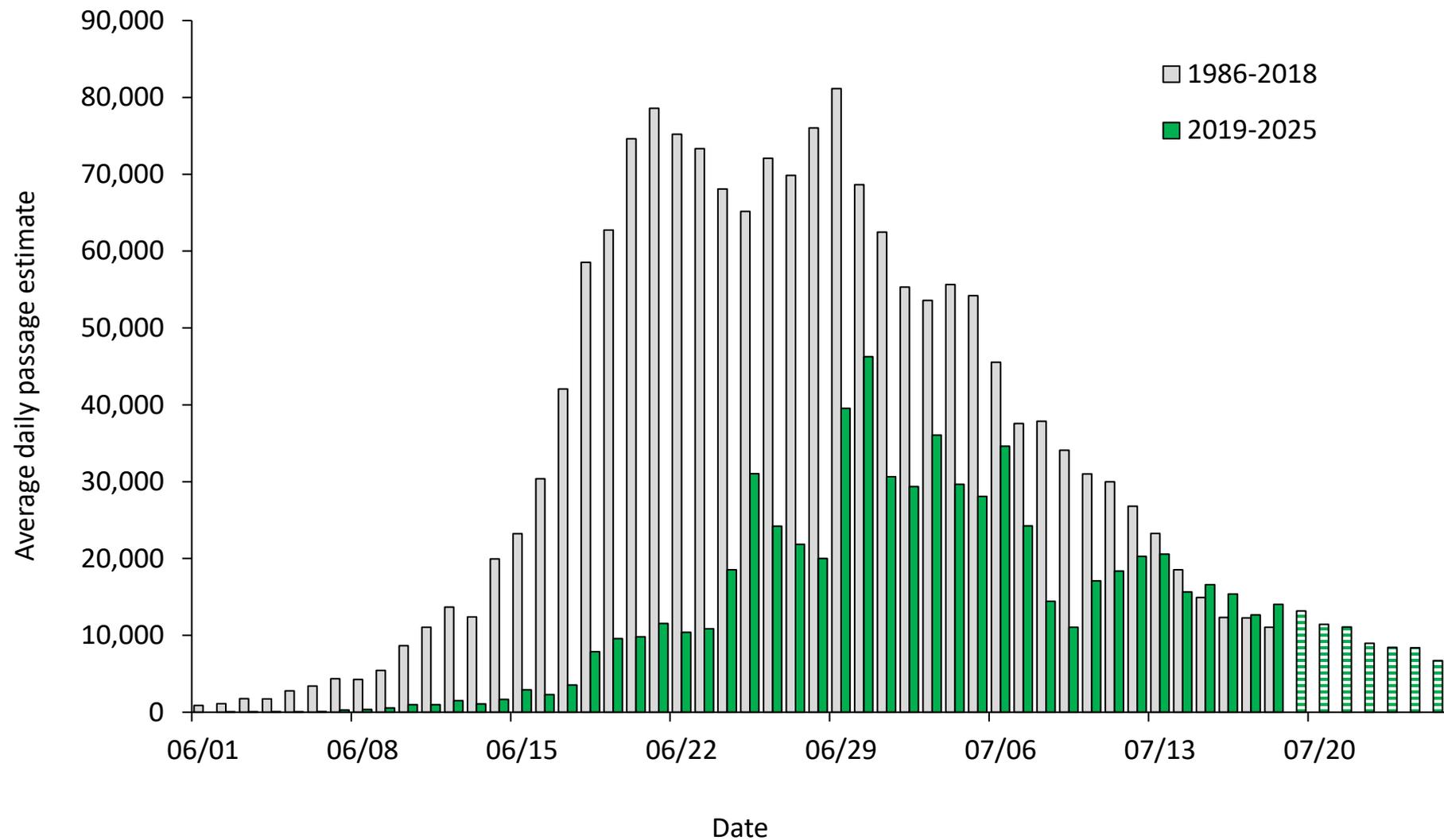


Summer season run timing overlap at Pilot Station sonar

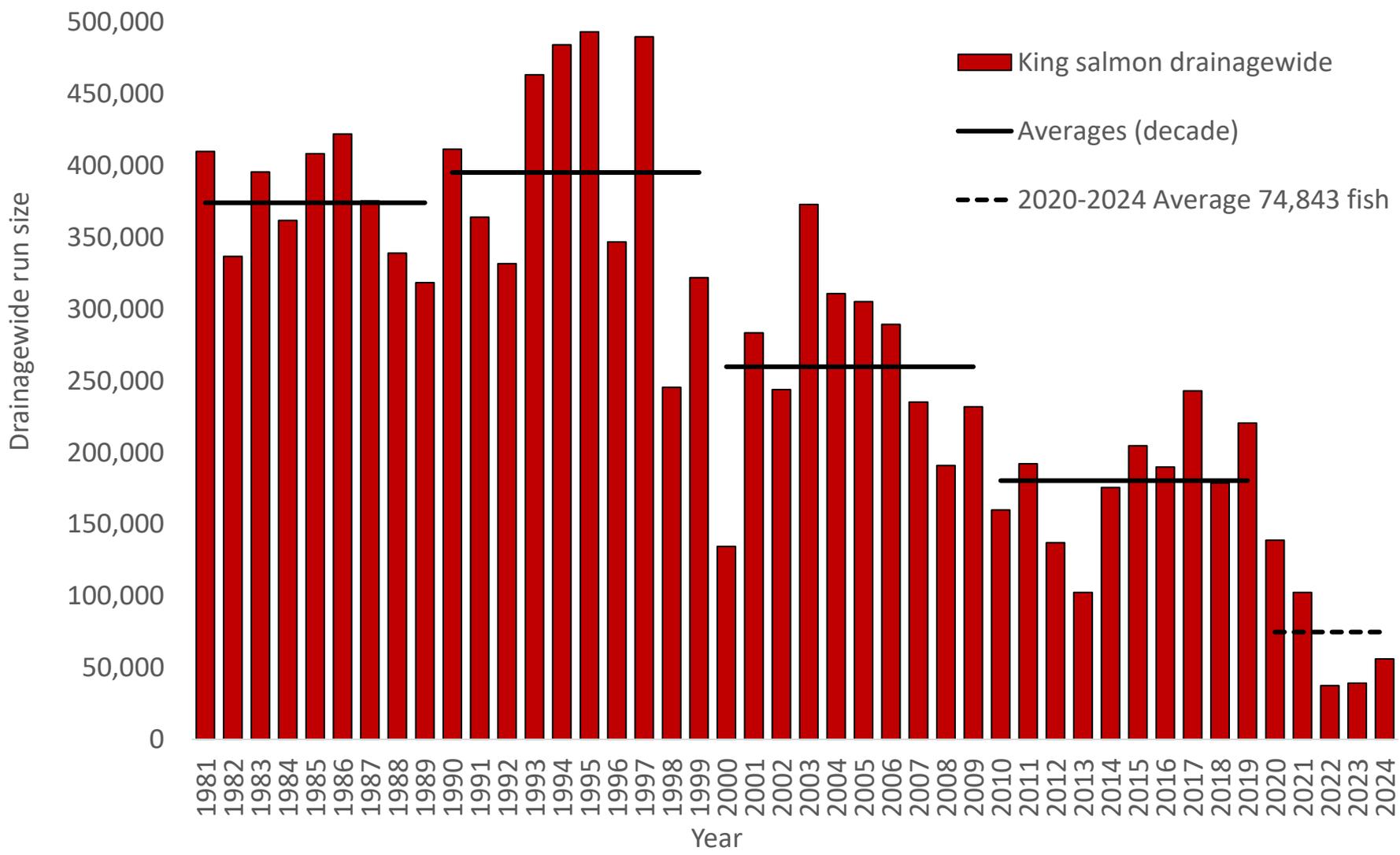


*Timing from late king and summer chum salmon runs, does not include on time or early passage estimates.

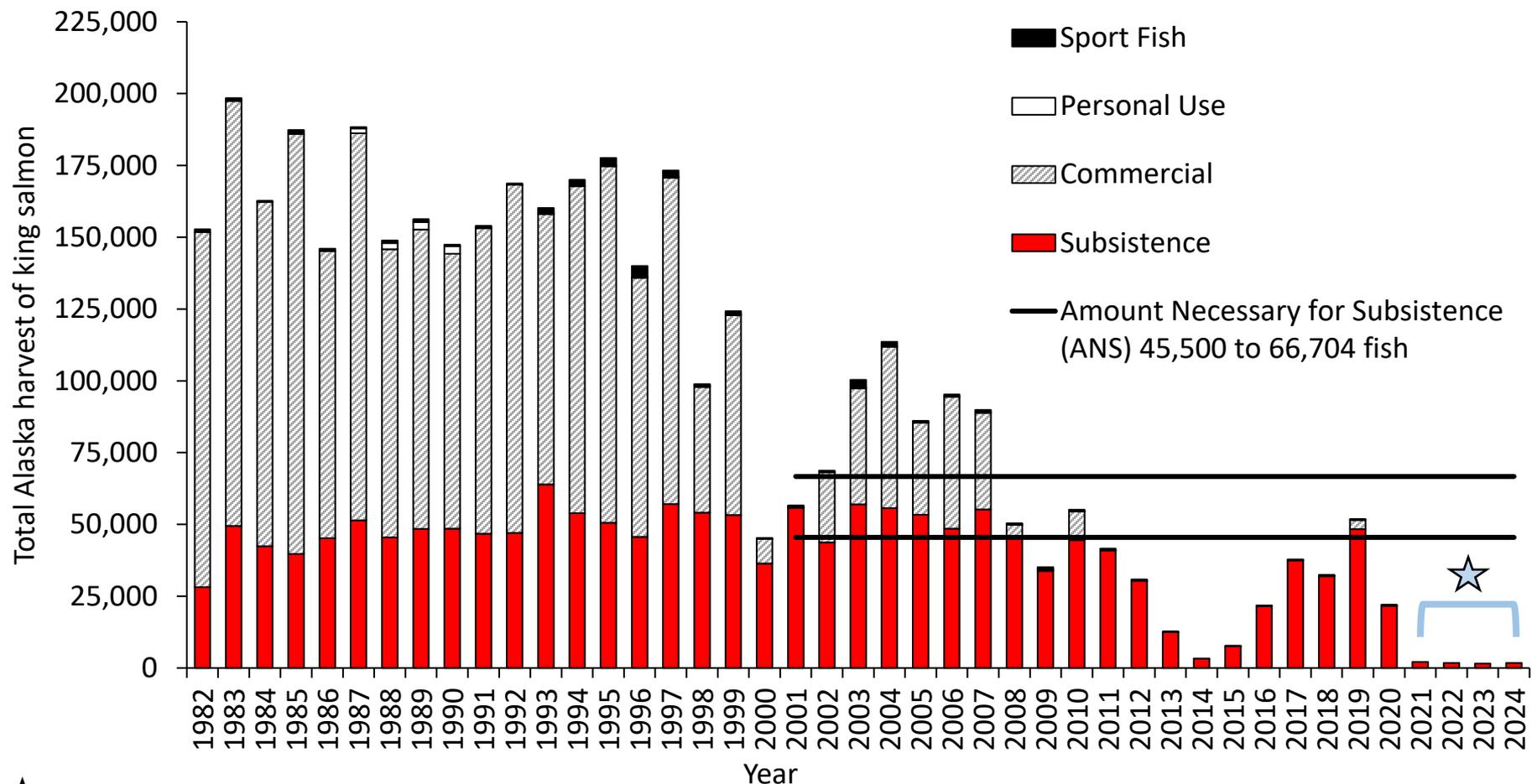
Summer chum salmon at Pilot Station sonar – late years



King salmon drainagewide total run



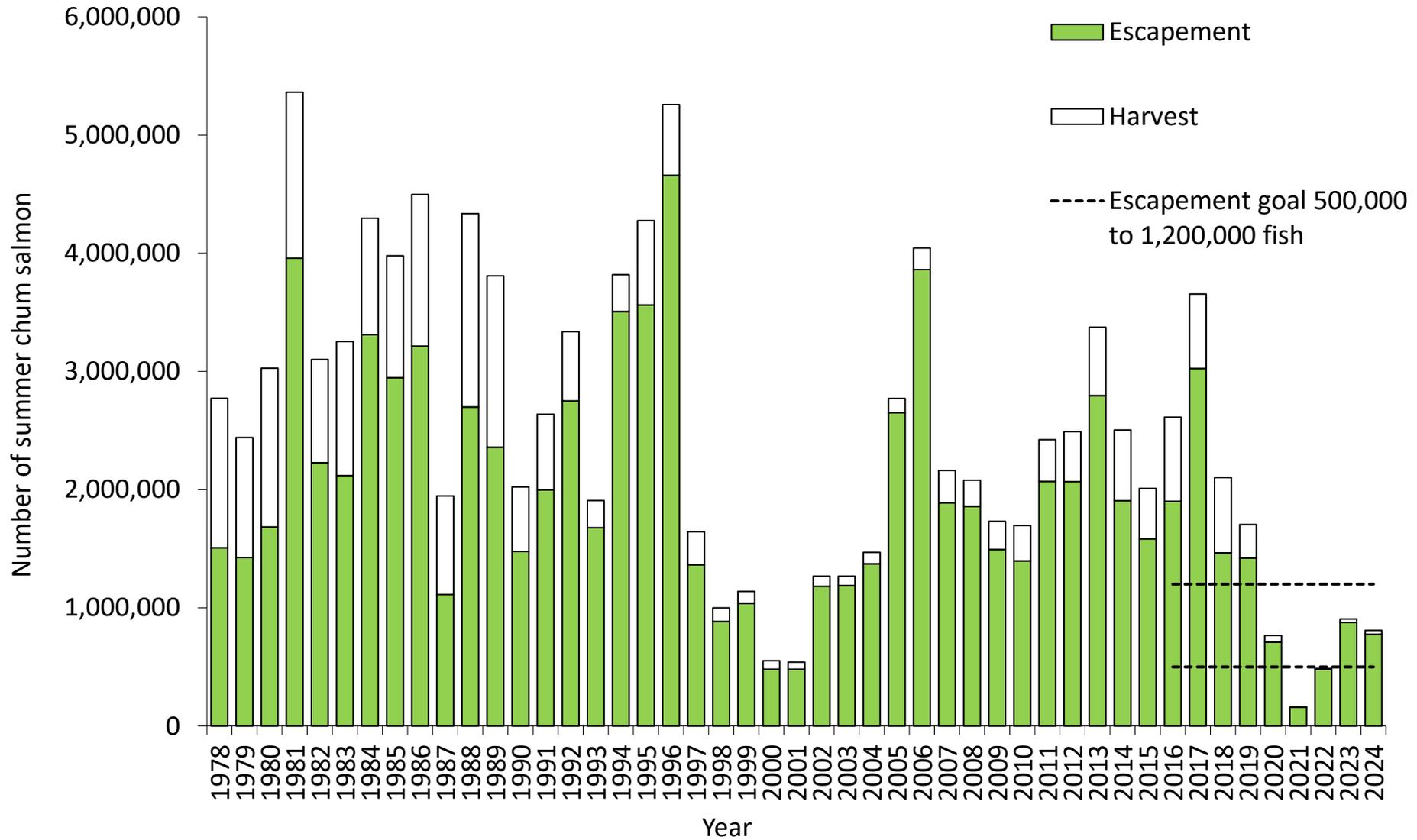
King salmon harvest - Alaska



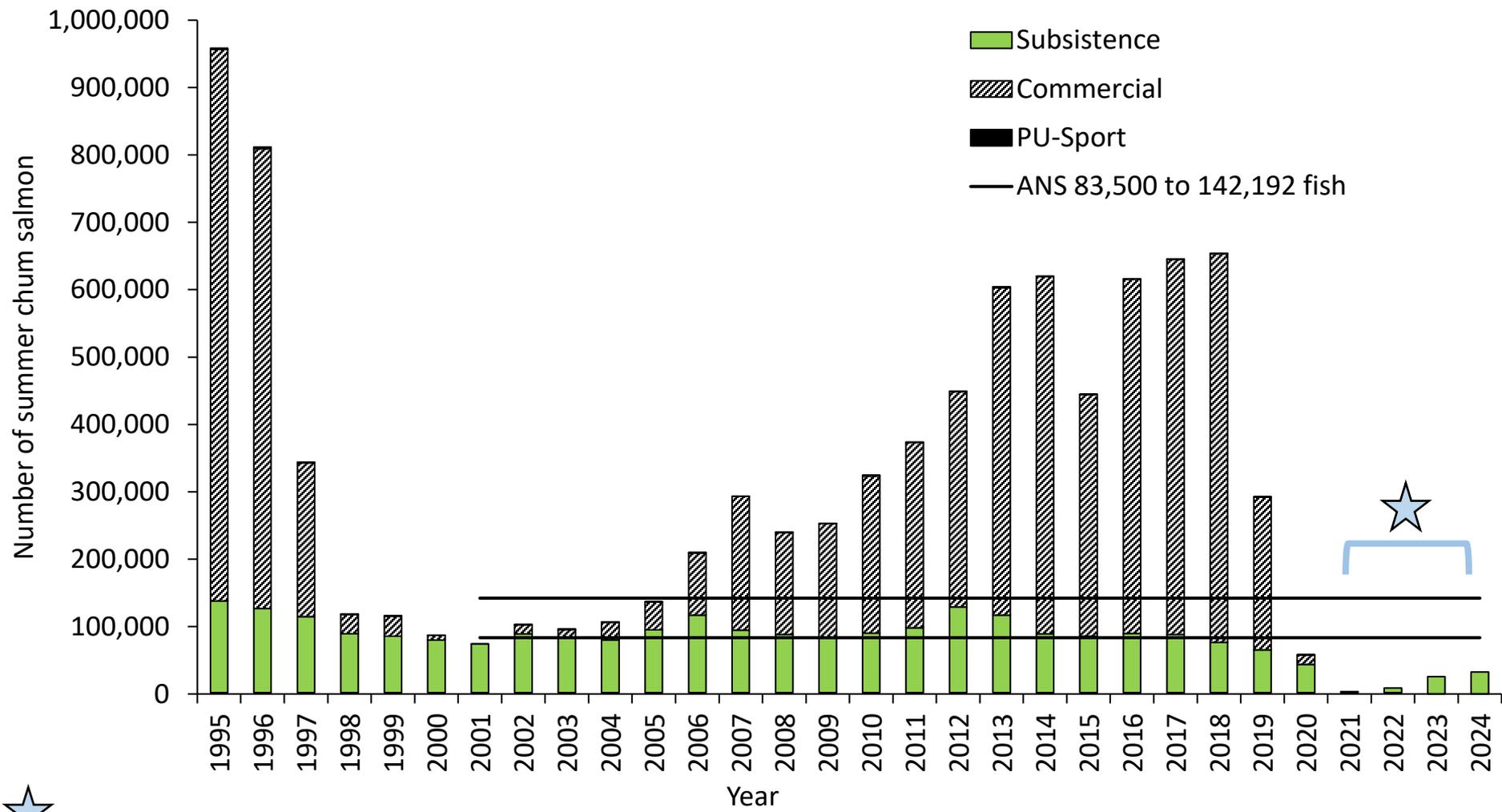
Subsistence harvests include fish distributed from assessment and research projects in each year.

- From 2021 to 2024, test fish made up about a third of king salmon harvested. The remainder of fish were likely harvested incidentally in nonsalmon gear, or from before or after closures/restrictions.

Summer chum salmon total run



Summer chum salmon harvest by type



From 2021 to 2024, an average of 1,500 summer chum were distributed from test fish projects to households, making up about one-tenth of the total harvest.

King salmon escapement goals

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
East Fork Andreafsky (weir SEG) 2,100 to 4,900	Over	Met	Met	Met	Over	-	Under	-	-	-
West Fork Andreafsky (aerial SEG) 640 to 1,600	Met	-	Met	Under	Met	Under	-	-	Under	Under
Anvik River (aerial SEG) 1,100 to 1,700	Over	-	Under	Met	Met	Under	-	Under	-	Under
Nulato River (aerial SEG) 940 to 1,900	Met	-	Met	Under	Under	Under	-	Under	Under	Under
Chena River (sonar/tower BEG) 2,800 to 5,700	Over	Over	Met	Met	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
Salcha River (sonar/tower BEG) 3,300 to 6,500	Met	Under	Met	Met	Met	-	Under	Under	Under	Under
U.S.-Canada border (sonar IMEG) 42,500 to 55,000 plus Canadian harvest	Over	Over	Over	Met	Under	Under	Under	Under		
7-Year Agreement Border Passage Objective >71,000										Under

Over goal	Met goal	Under goal	- Did not operate for some or all of the season
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Summer chum salmon escapement goals

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Drainagewide (reconstruction, BEG) 500,000 – 1,200,000	Over	Over	Over	Over	Over	Met	Under	Under	Met	Met
East Fork Andreafsky (weir, SEG) >40,000	Met	Met	Met	Under	Met	–	Under	–	–	–
Anvik River (sonar, BEG) 350,000 - 700,000	Met	Under	Met	Under	Under	–	Under	Under	–	Under

Over goal	Met goal	<u>Under goal</u>	– Did not operate for some or all of the season
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Management tools – Time, Area, Gear

Time

- Windows, reductions, closures
- Spread harvest out and let fish pass upriver

Area

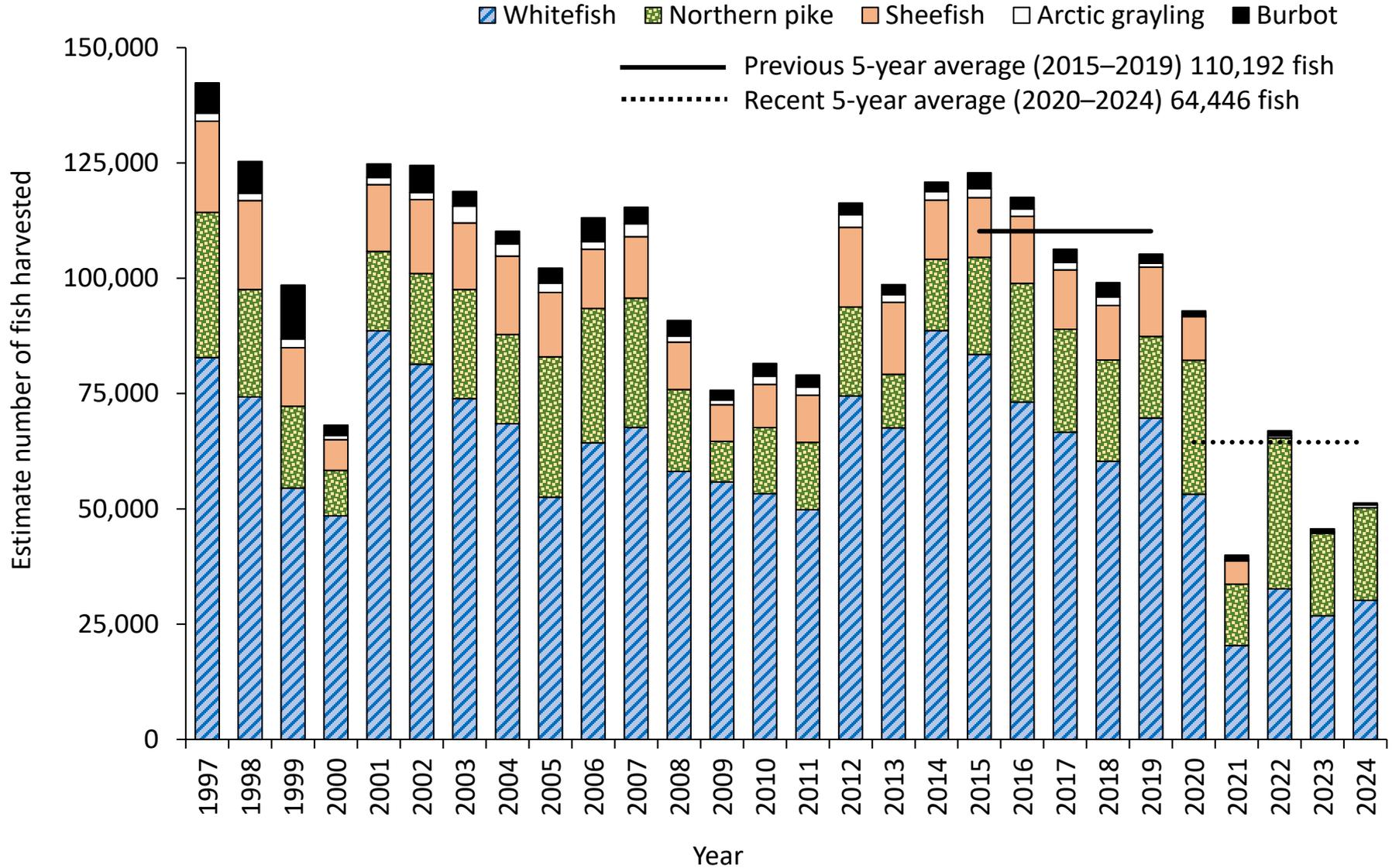
- Management actions ‘follow’ salmon upriver
- Tributary actions to protect spawning areas or allow nonsalmon opportunity

Gear

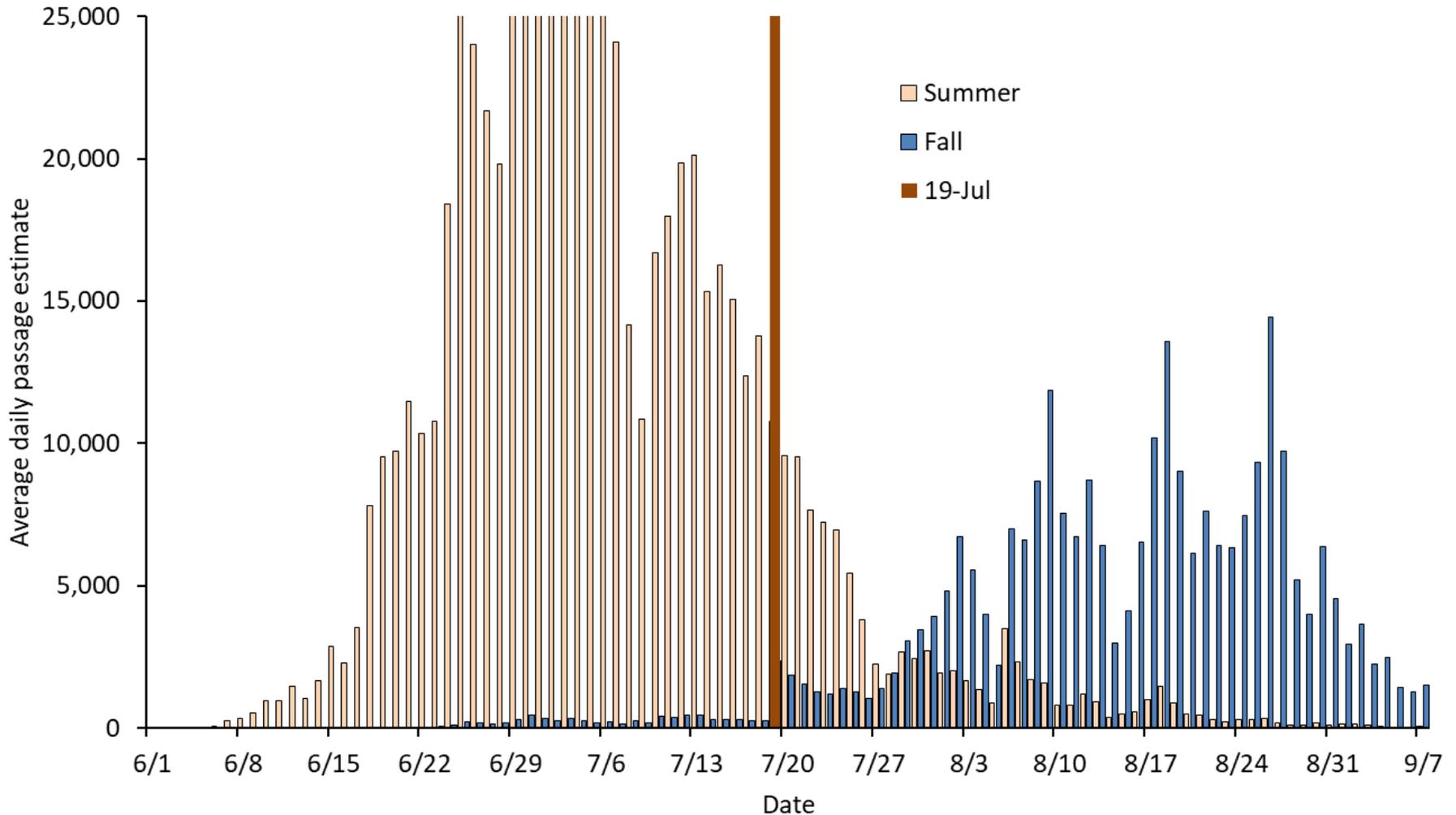
- Mesh size restrictions
- Selective gear types and live release options during times of conservation
- Nonsalmon gear
 - Modifications or closures to reduce incidental salmon harvest
 - Balance of salmon conservation and preserving nonsalmon opportunity



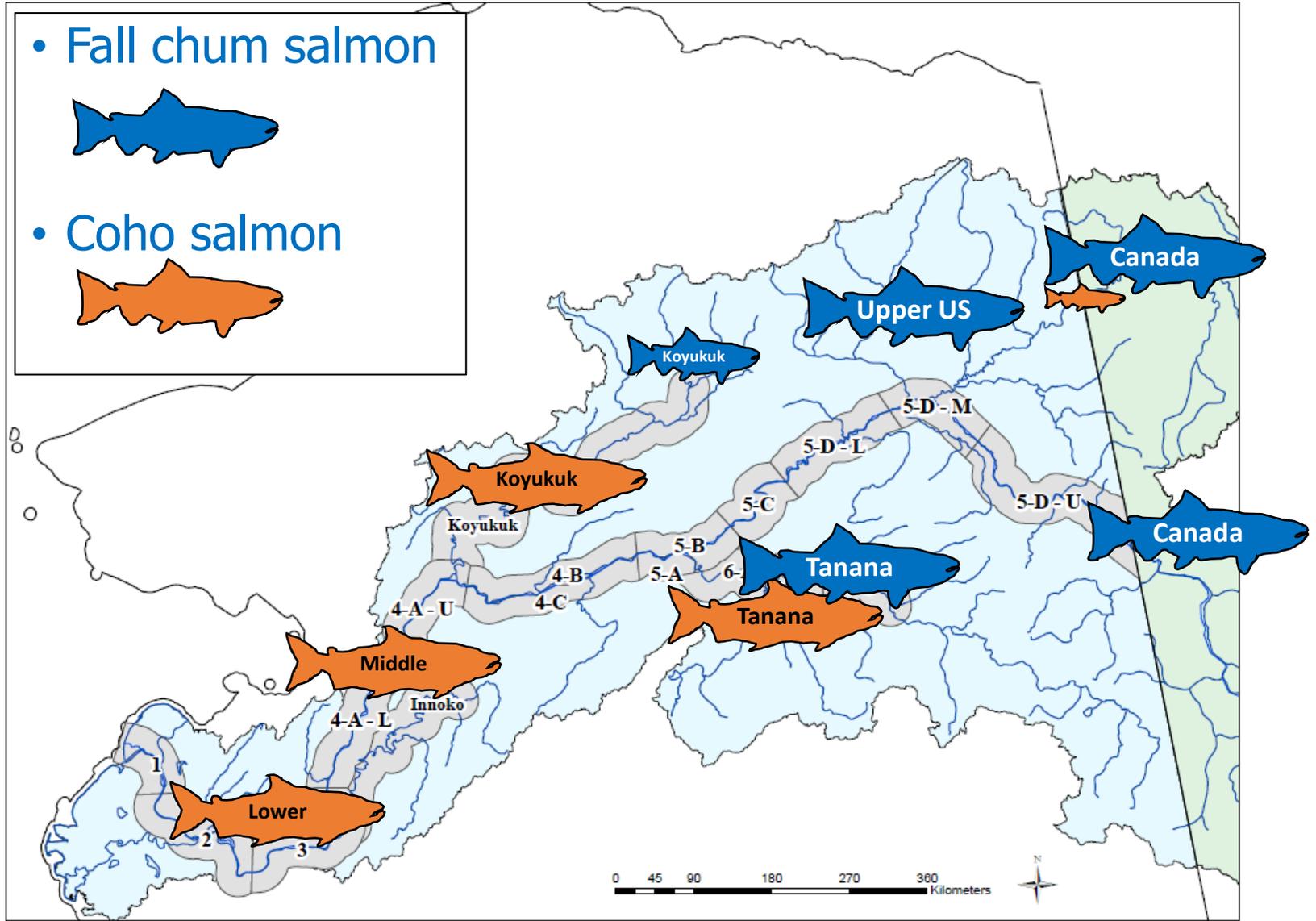
Nonsalmon subsistence harvests (select species)



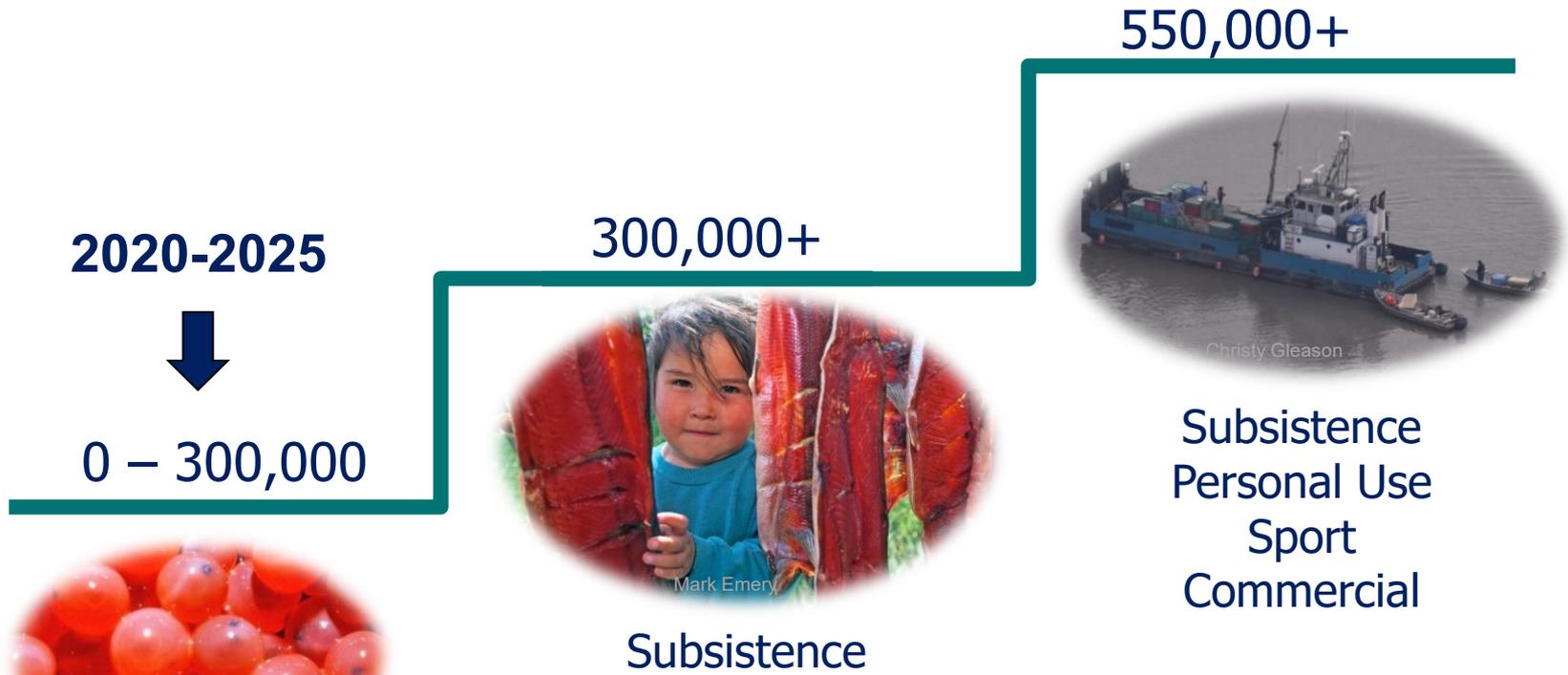
Summer to fall chum salmon passage transition at Pilot Station Sonar, 2019-2025



Fall chum and coho salmon distribution



Yukon river drainage fall chum salmon management plan

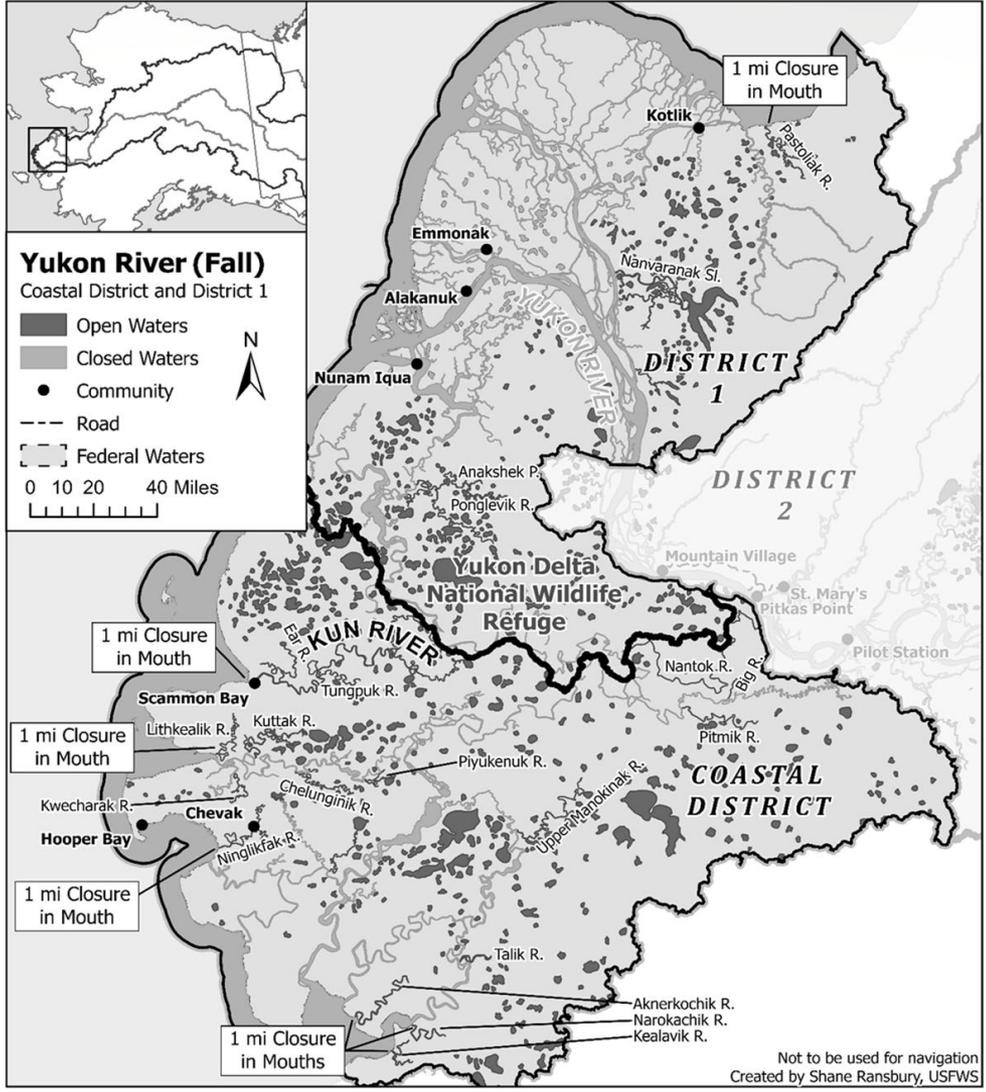


Closed

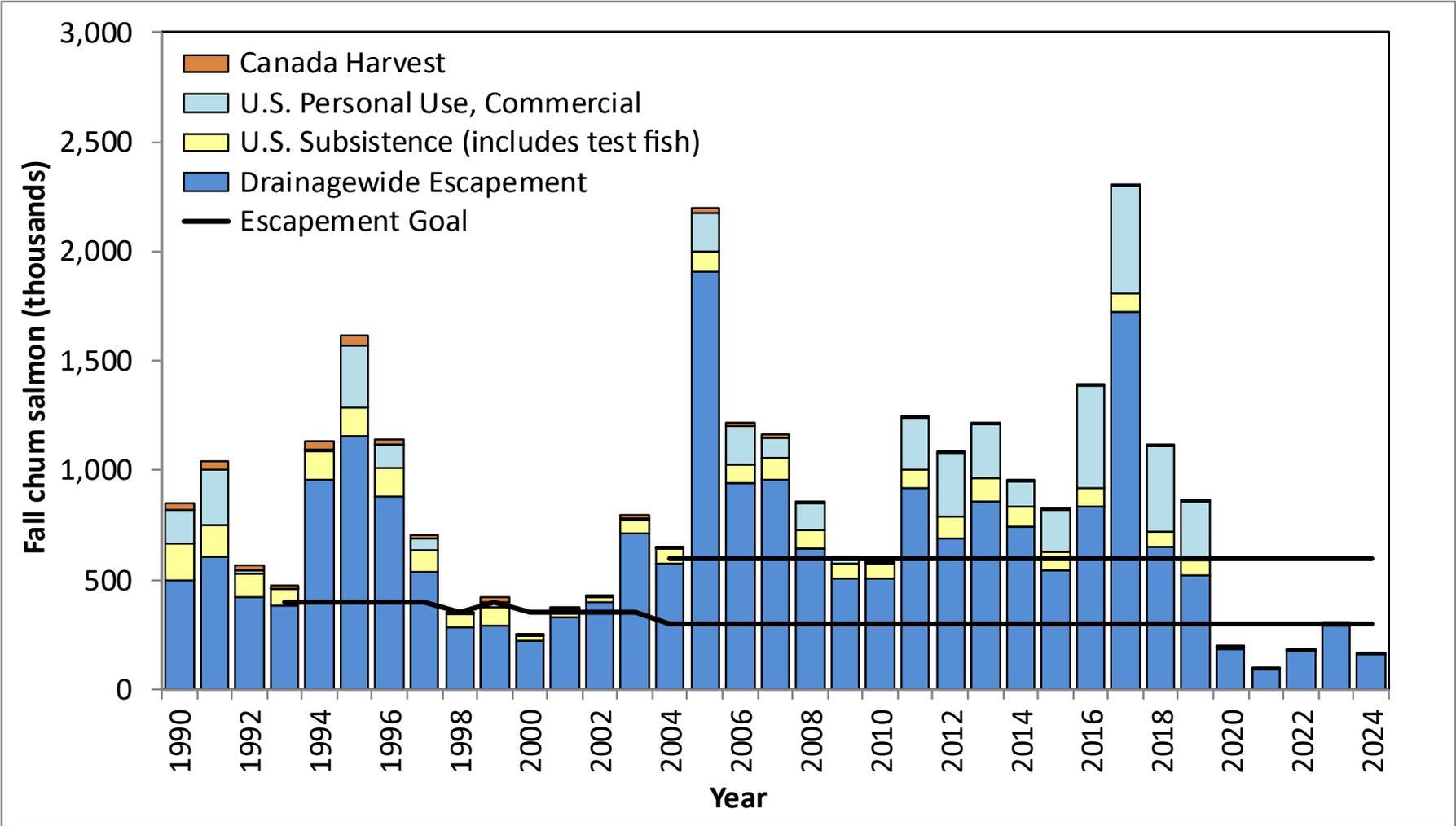
Drainagewide escapement goal
300,000 – 600,000

Subsistence fisheries management

- Districts switch to fall season management based on fall chum salmon migration timing
- **Fall chum salmon closures 2020 to 2025**
 - Selective gears open for nonsalmon
- New in 2025, 6-inch or less mesh gillnet opportunity in designated areas



Fall chum salmon total run



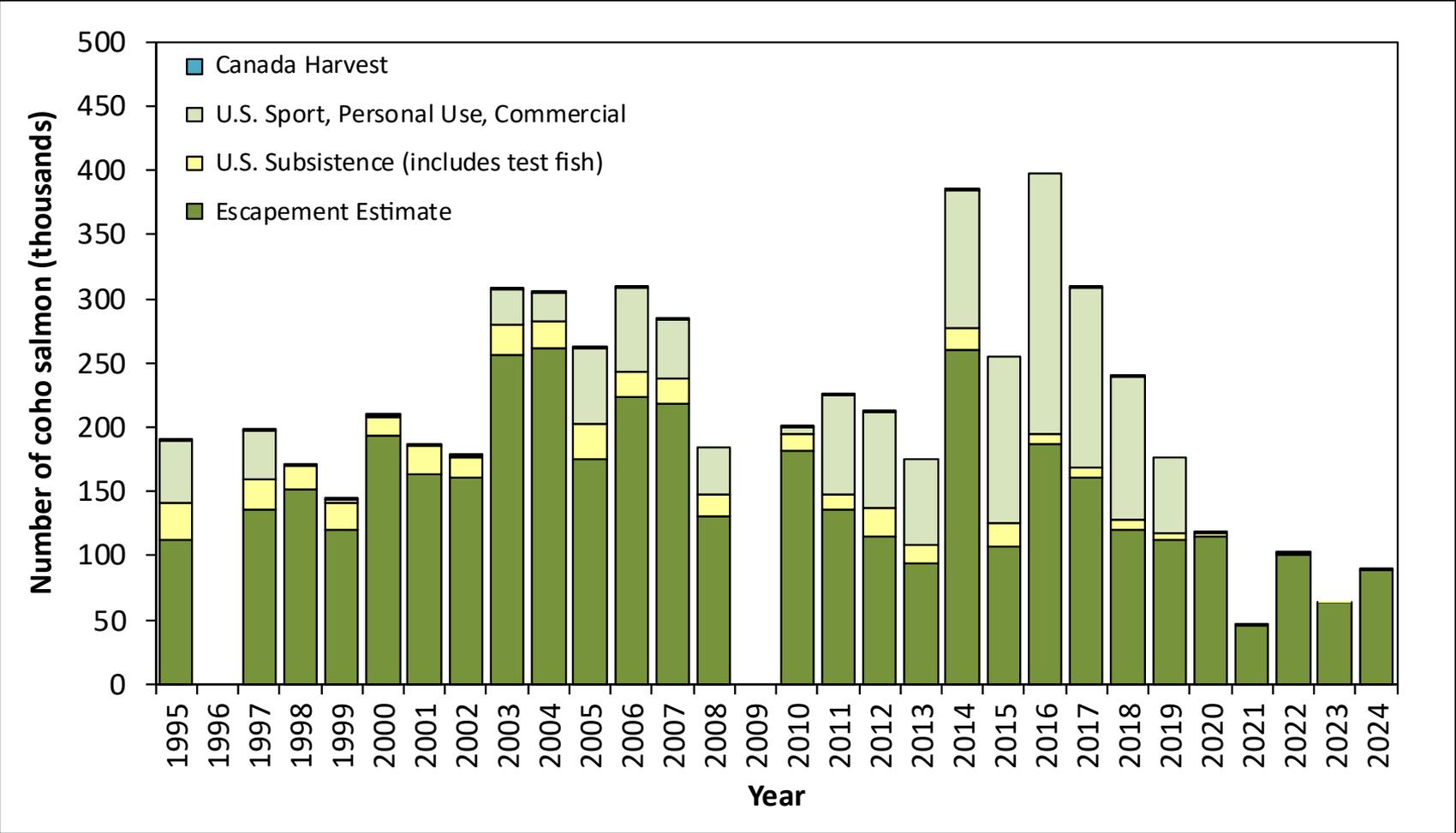
Fall chum salmon escapement goals

U.S./Alaska	Current Goal	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yukon River Drainagewide	300,000–600,000	Met	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>
Teedriinjik	85,000–234,000	Met	–	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	Met	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>
Delta River	7,000–20,000	Over	Met	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	Met	Met	Ongoing

Canada	Current Goal	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mainstem Yukon	70,000–104,000	Met	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>	<u>Under</u>
Fishing Branch River	22,000–49,000	<u>Under</u>						

Over goal	Met goal	<u>Under goal</u>	– Did not operate for some or all of the season
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Coho salmon run size index



2025 Yukon area proposals related to fall season

Subsistence Fishery:

- **Proposal 15:** Close harvest of fall chum salmon in the mainstem Yukon River for two years
- **Proposal 16:** Prohibit the use of 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the mainstem Yukon River after fall chum salmon are detected
- **Proposal 17:** Allow the use of 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in select nonsalmon areas near Mountain Village during times of salmon conservation

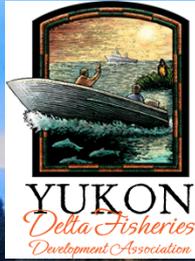


Action plan for stocks of concern

- Yukon River king salmon were designated a Stock of Yield Concern in 2000
- The board accepted the departments recommendation for both king and fall chum salmon to be listed as Stocks of Management concern at the October 2025 work session
- Draft Action Plan for these stocks will be presented to the board in March. Staff will be drafting the plan over the next few months



Acknowledgements



Questions or Comments?