

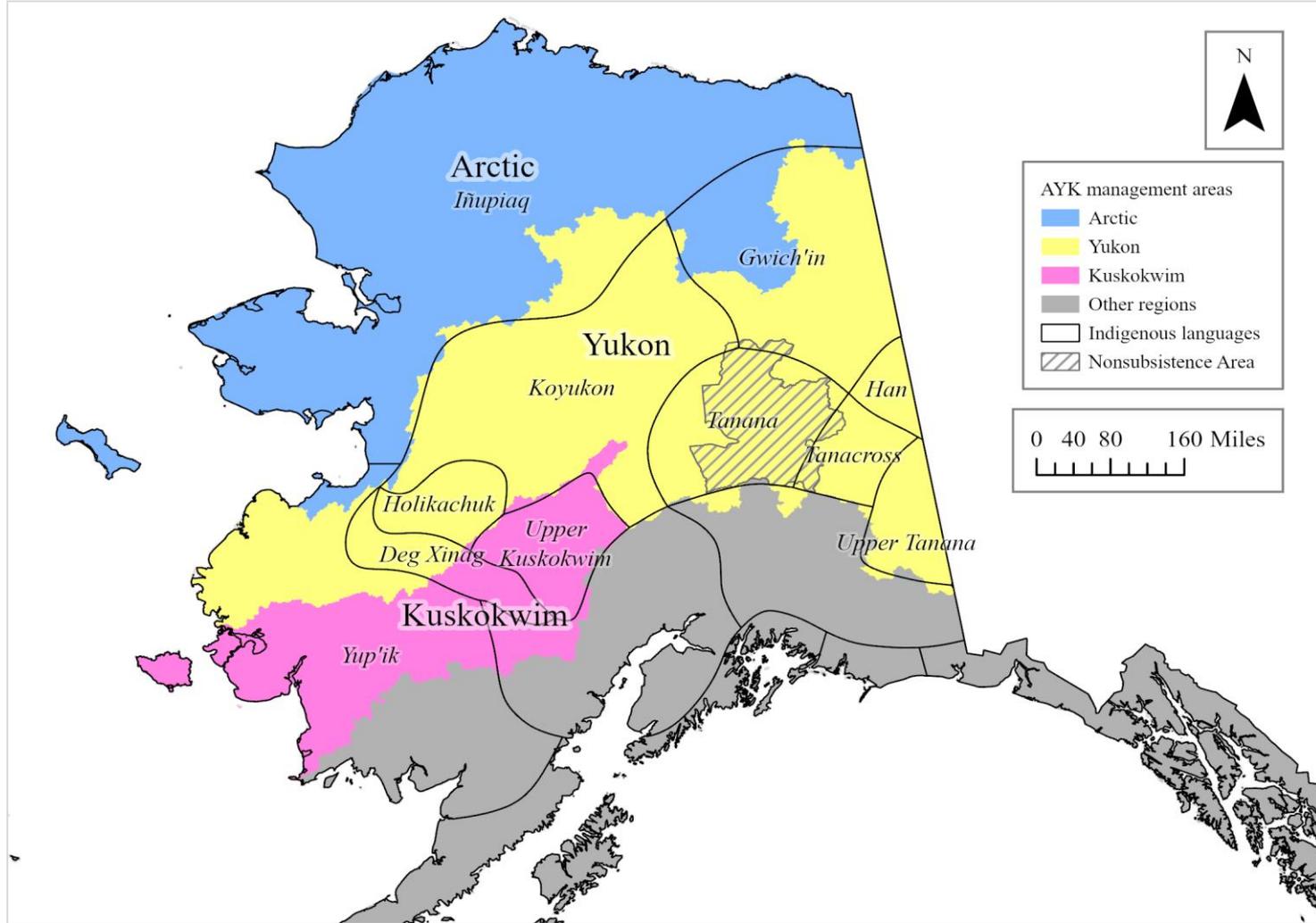
Patterns and Trends of Subsistence Salmon Fishing in the AYK Region



Oral report to the Board
November 2025

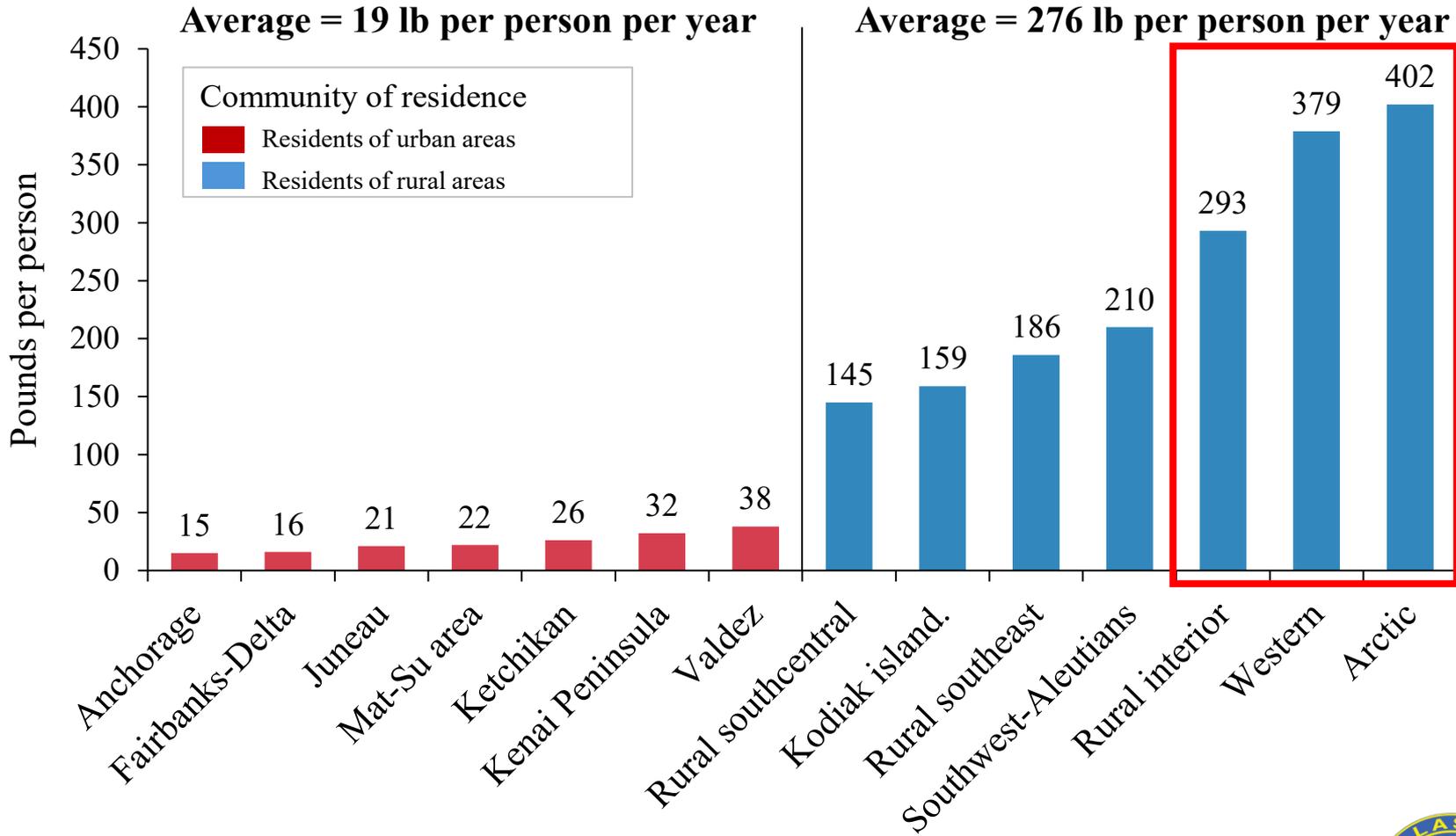
Alida Trainor
Division of Subsistence

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region



Wild food harvests in Alaska

Pounds usable weight per person per year by area, 2017

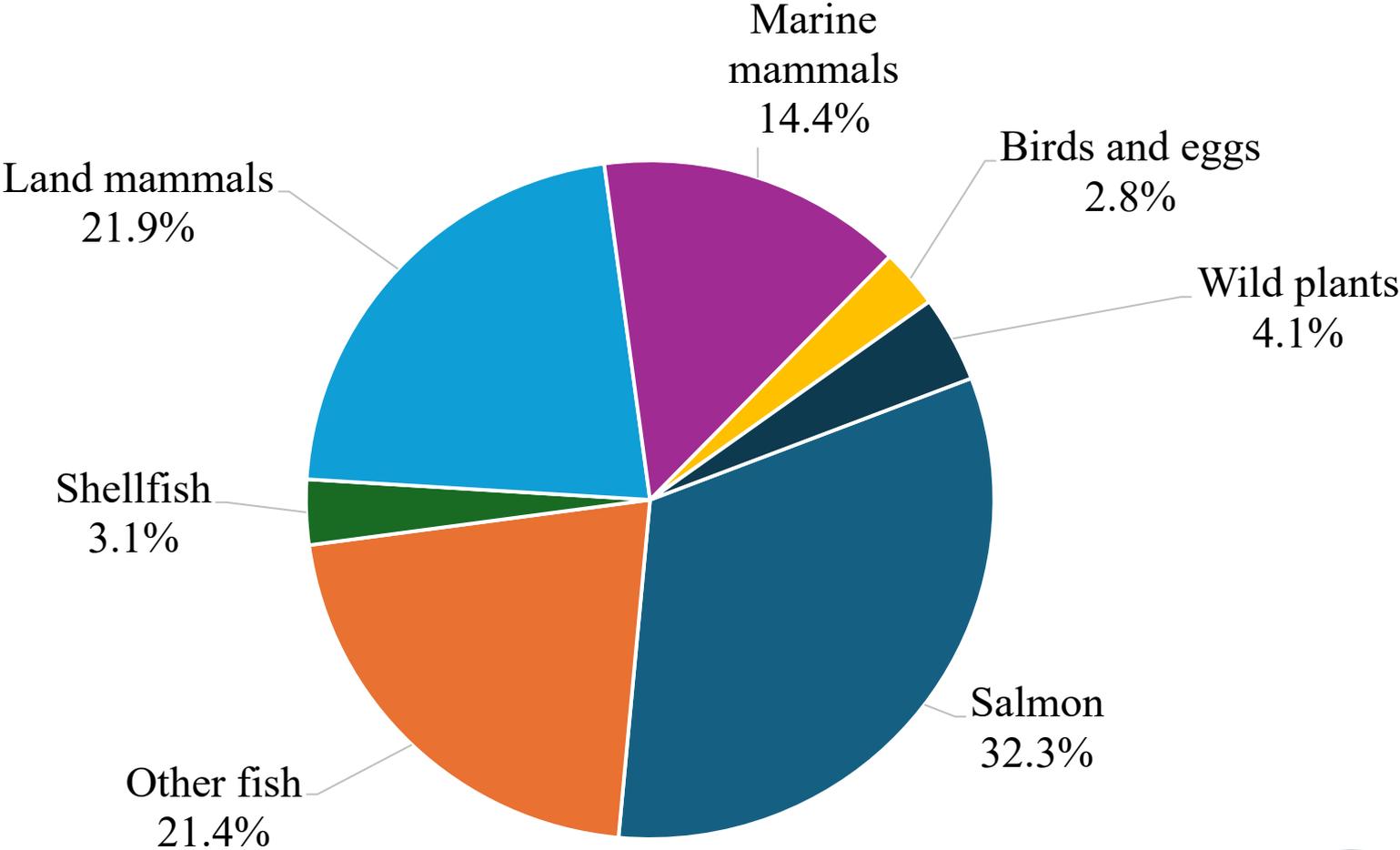


Source: Fall, J. A. 2018. *Subsistence in Alaska: A year 2017 update.*



Composition of wild food harvests

Pounds usable weight by Alaska residents, 2017



Source: Fall, J. A. 2018. *Subsistence in Alaska: A year 2017 update.*



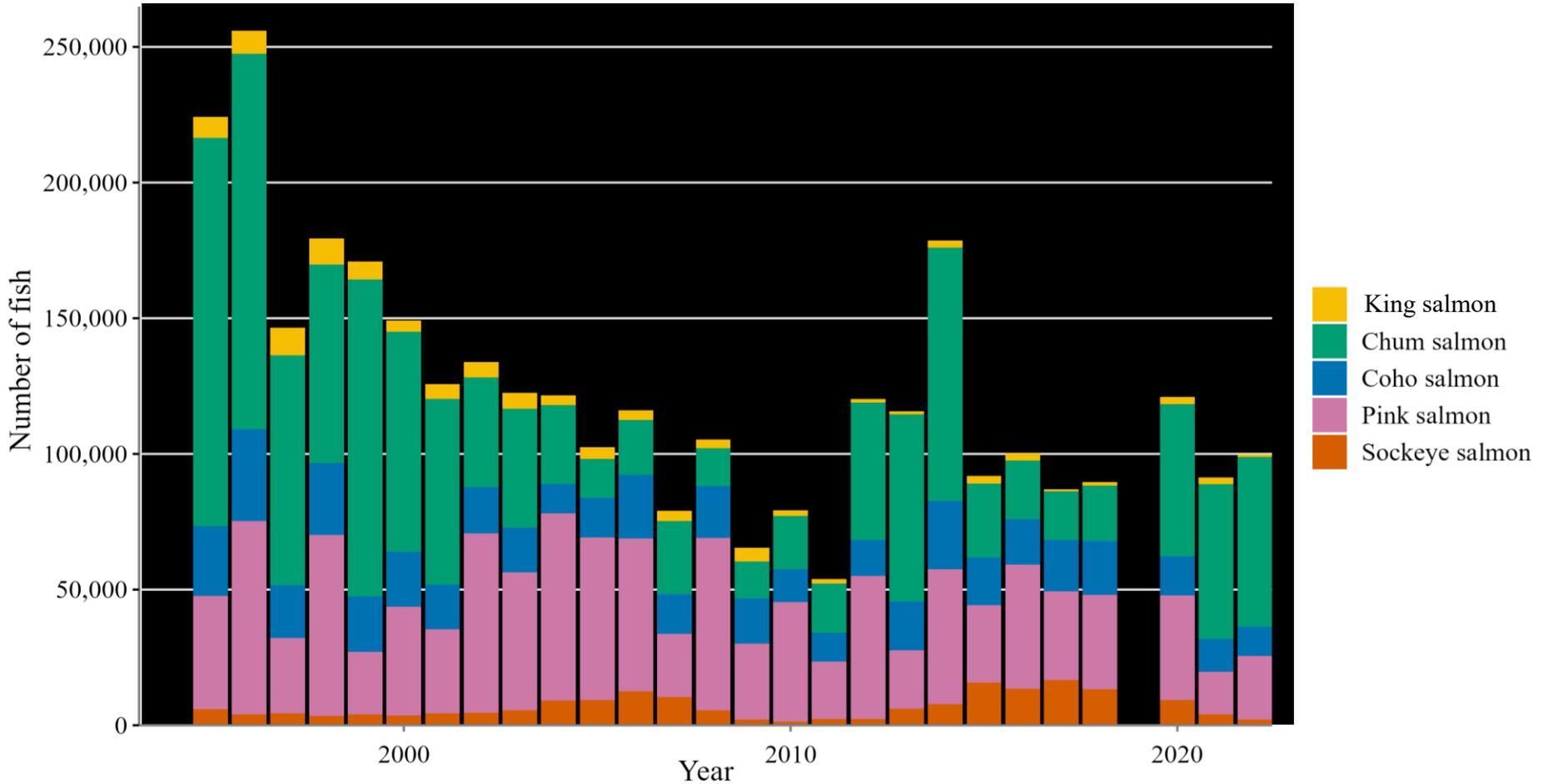
Arctic Area: (Norton Sound-Port Clarence Management Area and Arctic-Kotzebue Management Area)

- Less reliant on salmon than other AYK regions for subsistence
- Lower relative abundance of salmon
 - Increasing presence of salmon further north
- Declines in chum salmon abundance are impacting subsistence and commercial fisheries
- Economic impacts from recent commercial salmon fishing crash
- Varying relationship between salmon and nonsalmon fisheries across the region



Total subsistence harvest by species

Norton Sound/Port Clarence Management Area, 1995–2022



Source: ADF&G Alaska Salmon Fishery Database



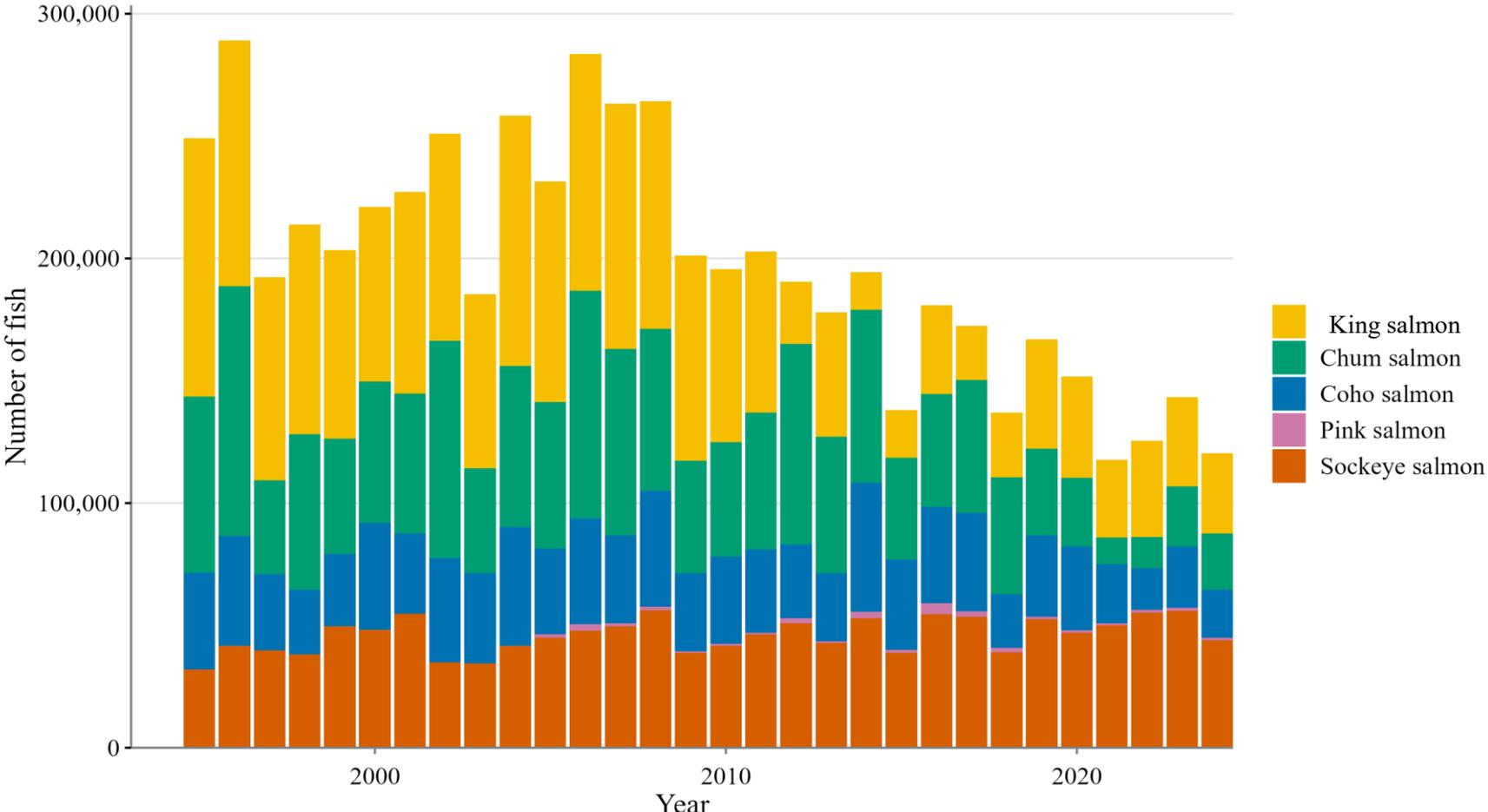
Kuskokwim Management Area

- Continued subsistence opportunity for kings, chum, coho, and sockeye
 - Regional disparities
- Significant reductions in harvest of kings throughout drainage and changes to patterns of harvest across all other salmon species
- No directed commercial king fishing since 1980s, no other commercial fishery since 2015



Total subsistence harvest by species

Kuskokwim Management Area, 1995–2024



Source: ADF&G Alaska Salmon Fishery Database



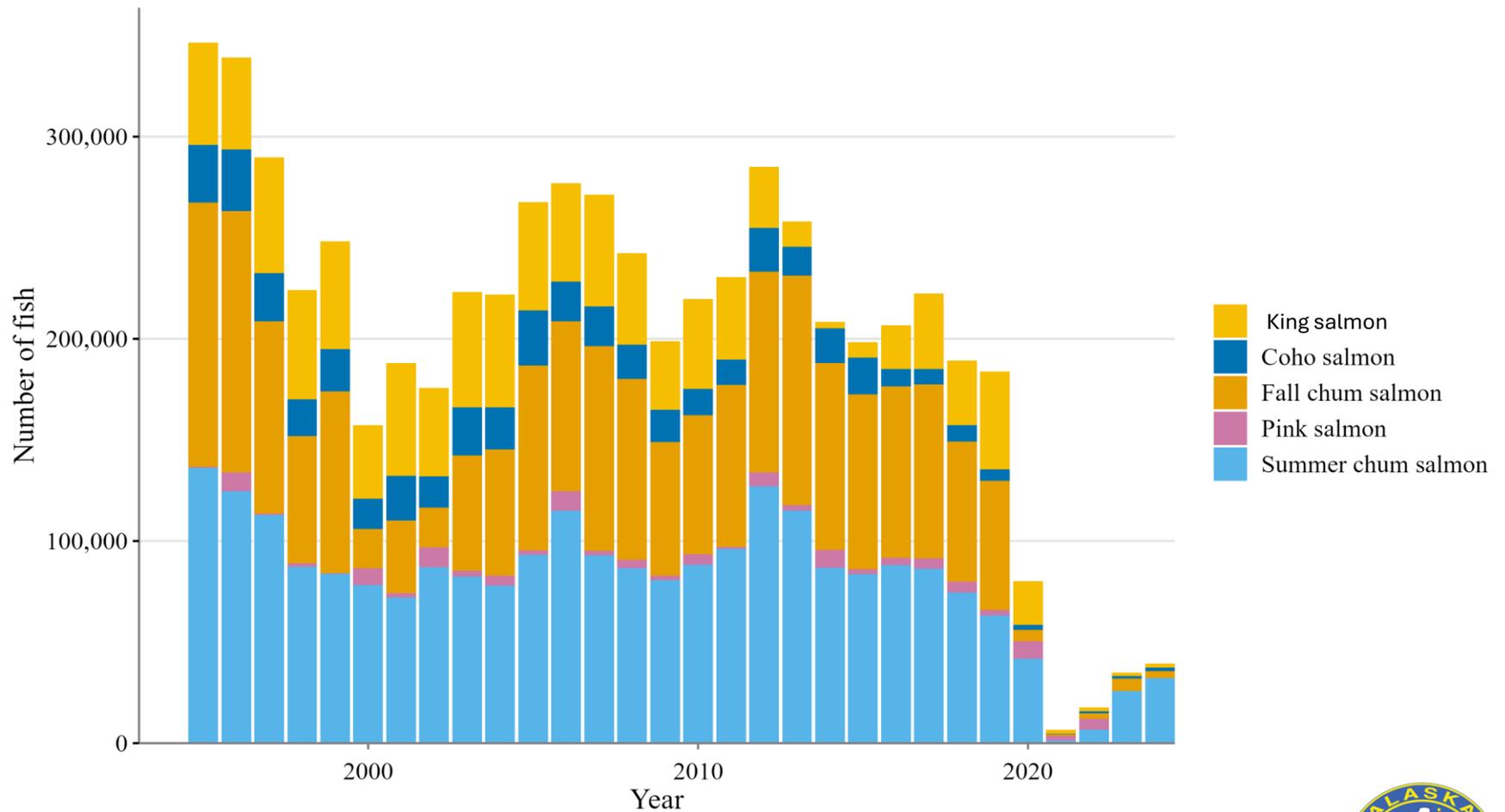
Yukon Management Area

- King salmon historically the primary wild food harvested in the Yukon Region
- Multi-species failure of king and fall chum salmon
- Changes to harvest patterns across all salmon species
- Department closure of sport, commercial, and personal use king fishery
- Subsistence fishing restrictions for more than 15 years
 - Full closure on king and fall chum fishery for the last 5 years
 - 7year agreement with Canada, cultural harvest permitted



Total subsistence harvest by species

Yukon Management Area, 1995–2024



Source: ADF&G Alaska Salmon Fishery Database



Amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence

Number of years that ANS has been met, 2015–2024

Management Area	King	Chum	Fall chum	Summer			Pink
				chum	Coho	Sockeye	
Yukon	1		0	3	0		8*
Kuskokwim	0	4			5	10	10
Norton Sound/ Port Clarence	4 (all species combined)						
Nome Subdistrict		1					
Kotzebue							

*data unavailable for 2023–2024

- No ANS, or species not present
- ANS met every year
- ANS met at least once
- ANS not met



Harvest Specialization

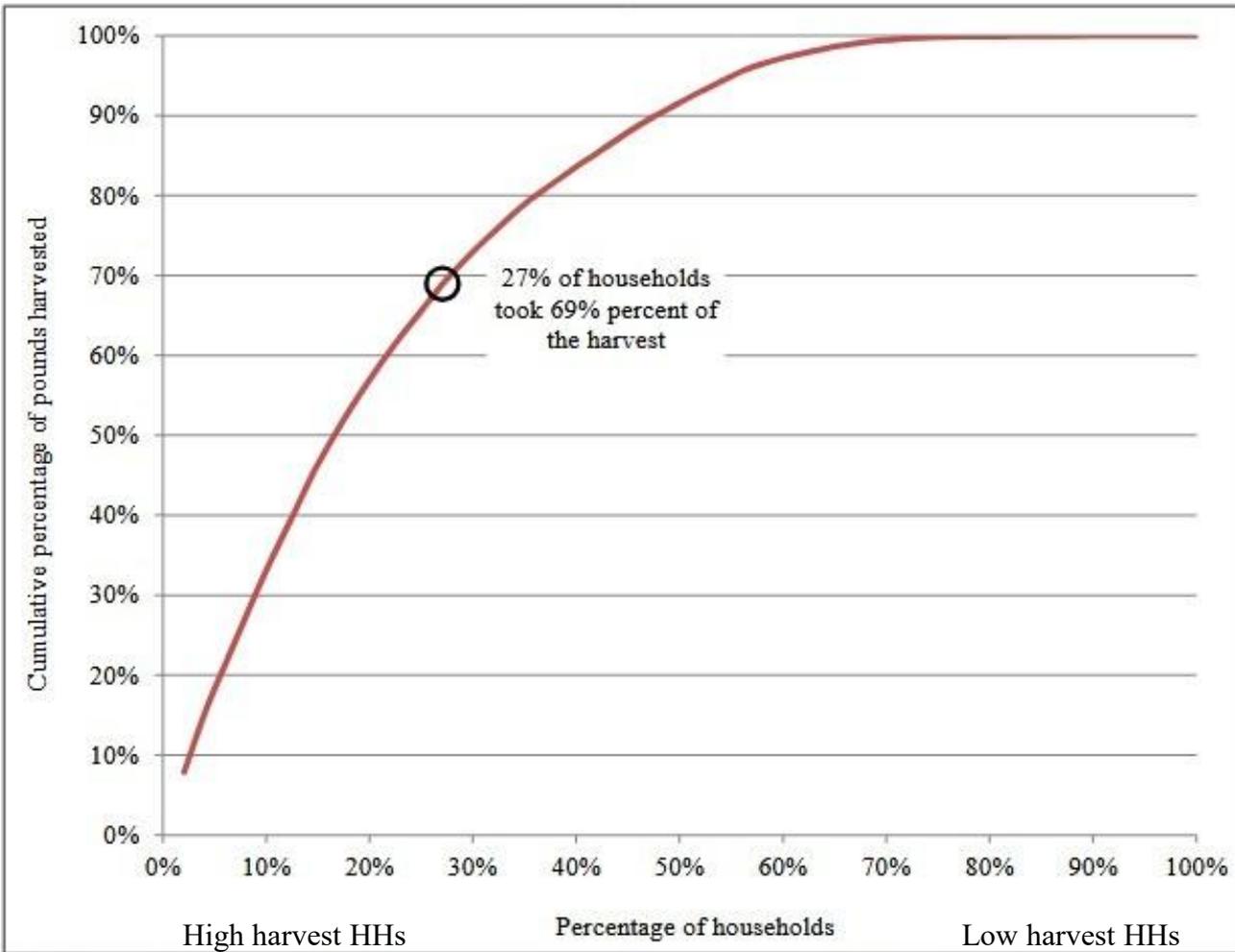


Photo credit: Alida Trainor



Photo credit: Alida Trainor



Household specialization in harvesting, Kaltag, 2018

Ethnographic Themes

- 12 fish focused projects in 21 AYK communities since 2023 BOF
- 155 ethnographic fisheries interviews
- Thematic analysis
 - Rapid change to fishing patterns
 - Impacts to cultural, nutritional, and personal well being
 - Impacts to generational transmission of knowledge



Photo credit: Helen Cold



Photo credit: Alida Trainor



Conclusions

- Reliance on salmon and response to changing salmon abundance differ across AYK. Specifically:
 - **Norton Sound**'s commercial chum fishery crashed in last 2 years
 - **Kuskokwim**'s overall subsistence salmon harvests continues to decline despite opportunity because of low chum abundance
 - **Yukon**'s multispecies failure is unprecedented and has eliminated most subsistence salmon fishing in recent years
- Communities are experiencing:
 - Changes to fishing patterns
 - Reliance on other wild foods
 - Changes to food security levels overall
 - Disruptions to sharing networks



Photo credit: Heather Dorsey



Photo credit: Alida Trainor



A photograph of a wooden structure, possibly a drying rack, filled with numerous hanging strips of salmon. The salmon is a vibrant orange-red color. The structure is made of dark wood and is set against a bright, overexposed background on the right side, which could be a window or an open door. The lighting is dramatic, with the salmon appearing to glow against the dark wood.

Questions?