

Conservation Principles &
their Integration

Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

A Bridge to Innovative Approaches to
Research and Collaborative Management

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Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy Development: 1997-1999

- Alaska Department of Fish & Game/Board of Fish Sustainable Fisheries Committee
- Synthesis of published scientific information
- Department panel for technical review
- Public advisory panel
- Over 30 public meetings
- External scientific peer review conducted

Parts of the Policy

- Principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries management
- Implementation Steps



Principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries management

- Protect wild salmon and habitat to ensure sustained yields
- Manage for escapement ranges that sustain production & maintain normal ecosystem functioning
- Apply effective management systems which regulate human activities
- Encourage public support and involvement
- Manage conservatively commensurate with uncertainty

Implementation Steps

- At Alaska Board of Fish meetings/work sessions (normal cycle) Alaska Department of Fish & Game provides stock by stock review for consistency with principles and criteria.
- Each stock status report will discuss escapement goals, habitat issues, and identify concerns.
- If a concern is identified, Alaska Department of Fish & Game /Alaska Board of Fish crafts an action plan.

Levels of Concern

- **Yield Concern:** results from a chronic inability to maintain yields or harvestable surplus above escapement needs
- **Management Concern:** results from a chronic inability to maintain escapements within the bounds of a Biological Escapement Goal, Sustainable Escapement Goal, or Optimal Escapement Goal
- **Conservation Concern:** results from a chronic inability to maintain escapements above a Sustainable Escapement Threshold

Chronic inability - continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement threshold (goals) over 4-5 year period (generation time of most species) despite use of specific management measures.

Current Stocks of Concern: Designated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Yield Concerns:

- Nome Subdistrict chum salmon
- Norton Sound Districts 2 & 3 chum salmon
- Norton Sound Districts 5 and 6 Chinook salmon
- Yukon River Chinook salmon

Management Concerns:

- Norton Sound District 1 chum salmon
- Bristol Bay, Kvichak sockeye salmon

Action Plan Elements

- Habitat restoration, protection measures
- Stock rebuilding goals, objectives
- Management actions
- Performance measures
- Research plan
- Communication with other agencies



Implementing Wild Salmon Policies:

Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy

Innovative
approaches to
research and
management:

Collaborative
Research

Collaborative
Management



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New Approaches to Addressing Research Needs

The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative

**AN INNOVATIVE
PARTNERSHIP CREATING
A LEGACY OF SALMON
SCIENCE**



Innovative Approaches: Bringing Diverse Groups Together



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- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Kawerak Incorporated
- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA Fisheries



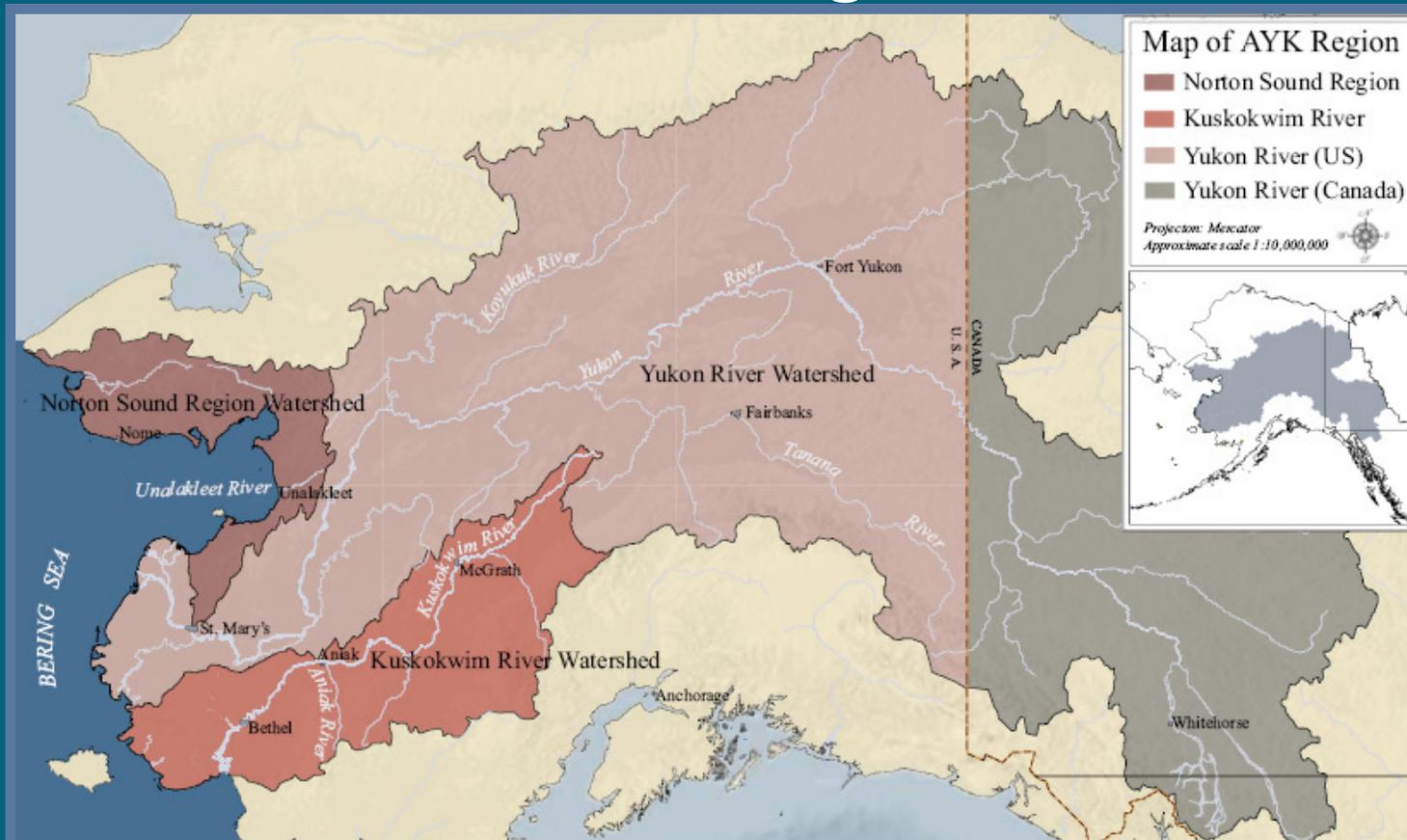


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Innovative Approaches:

- Bridge Disciplines
- Address Full Salmon Life Cycle at Scale of Watersheds or Larger



Innovative Approaches:



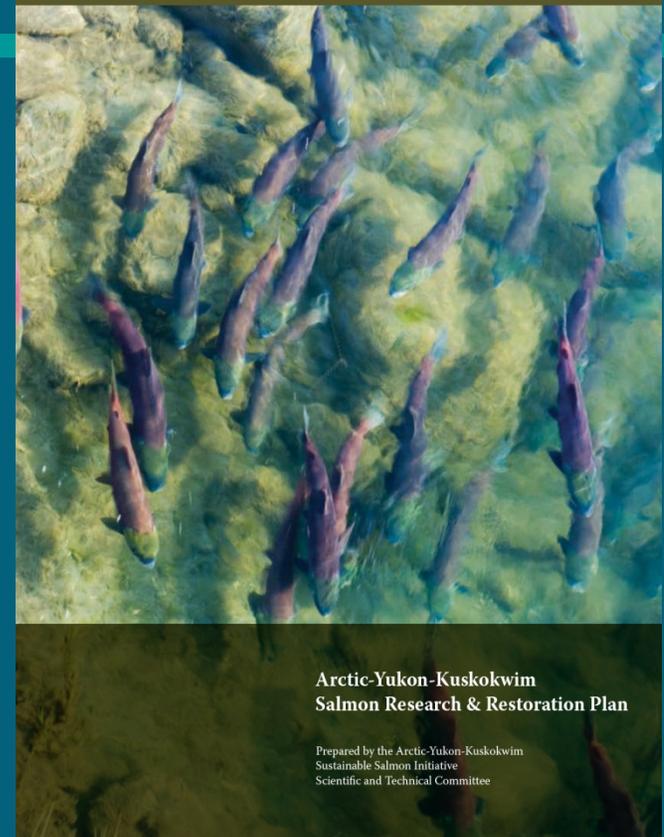
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Create a Shared Vision: Through Development Of A Strategic Salmon Research Plan

Arctic-Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative Salmon Research and Restoration Plan

- By 2012, assemble existing information, gain new information and improve techniques for understanding the trends and causes of variation in salmon abundance and human use of salmon that support sustainable use and restoration through a collaborative and inclusive process.





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Innovative Approaches:

Collaborative Management Approaches

- Co-management efforts meld aspects of governmental and community-level management.
- Co-management aims to improve fisheries information and management by making them:
 - more inclusive by involving diverse stakeholders
 - making them more flexible and adaptive to both changes in human communities and ecosystem changes