2025 U.S. Management Strategies
Yukon River Mainstem Fall Chum Salmon

Yukon River Panel Meeting
Agenda Item 10 (b)
April 9, 2025

Presentation by Matt Olson

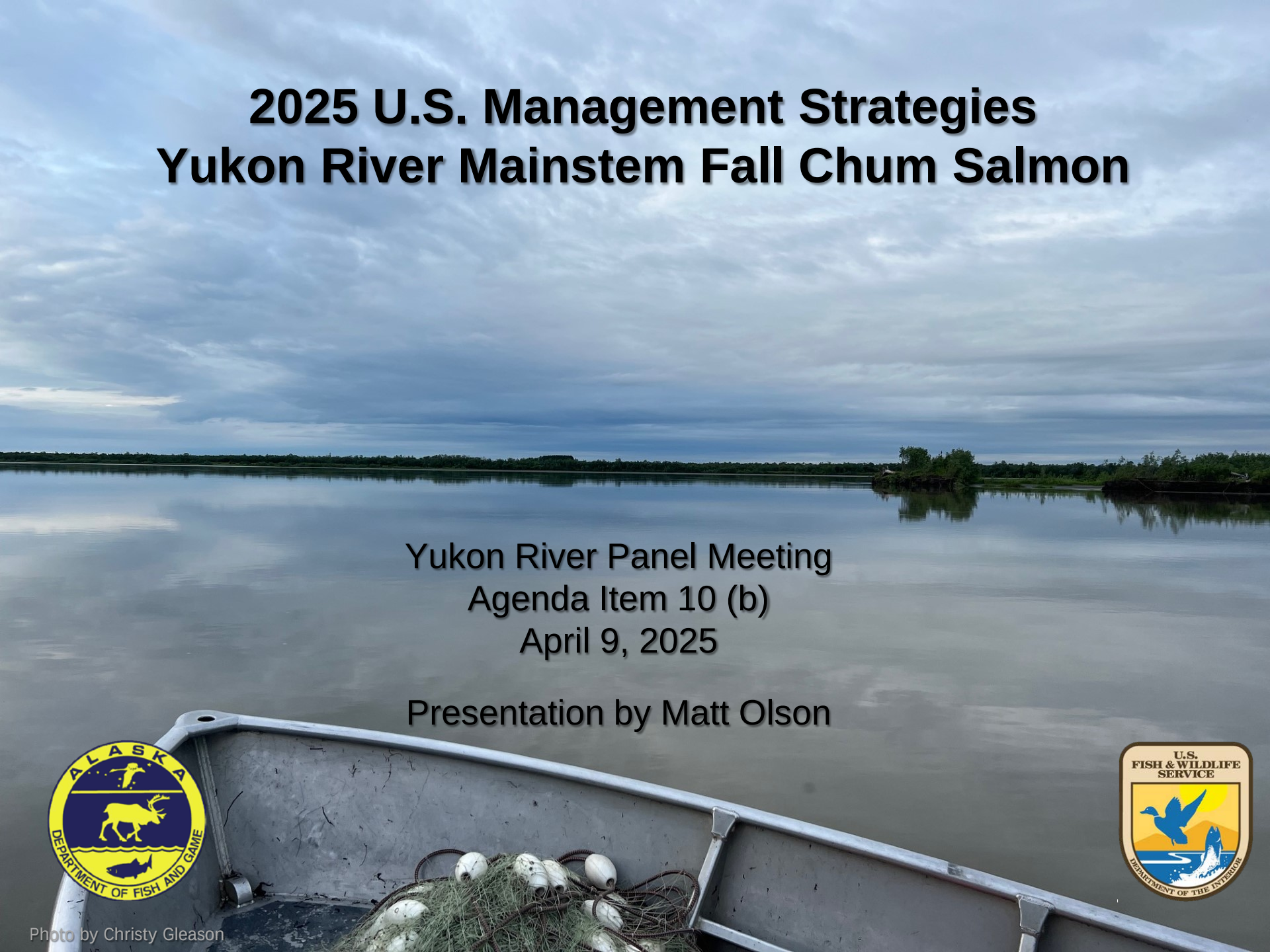
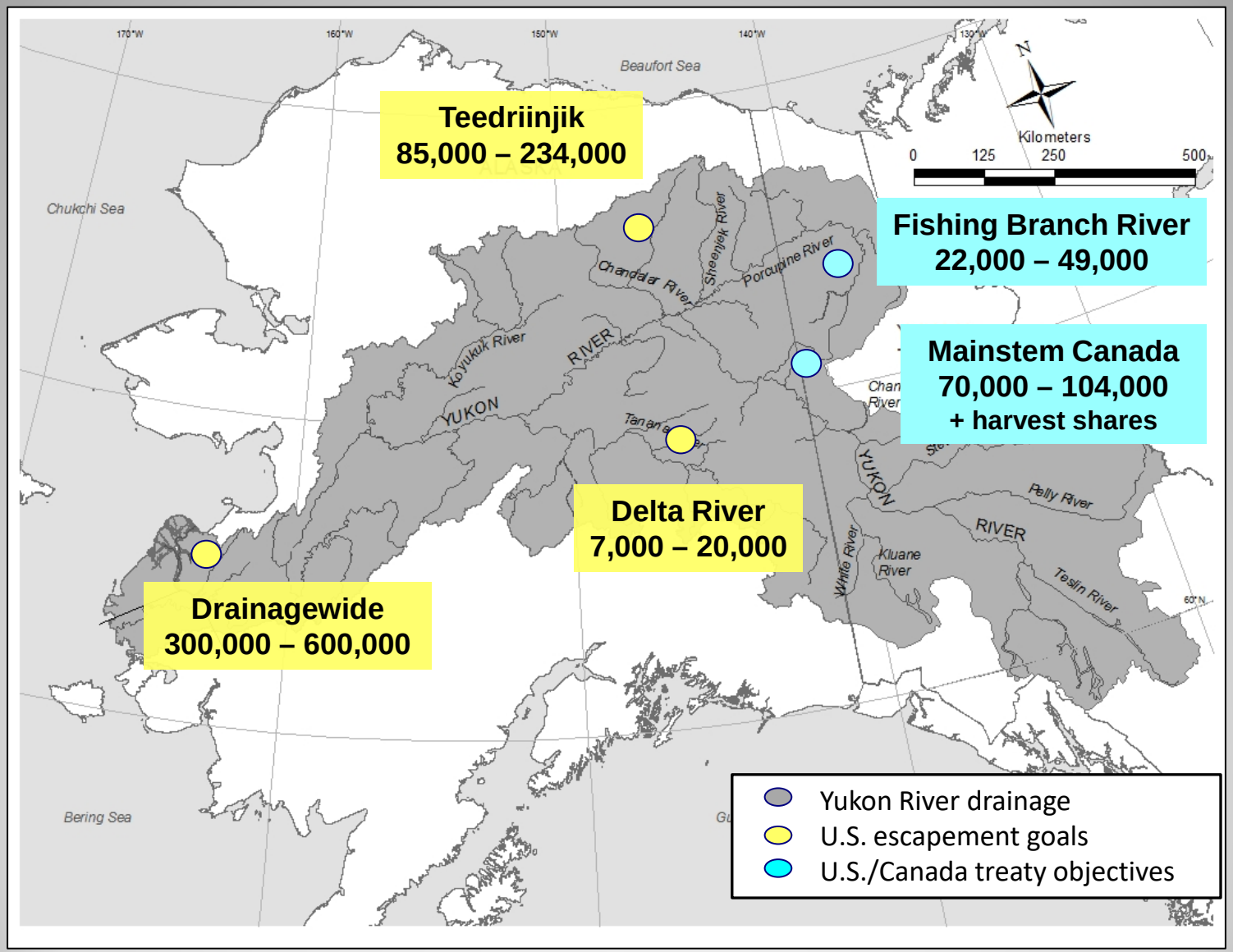


Photo by Christy Gleason

Fall Chum Salmon Management Objectives



Fall Chum Salmon Assessment to Inform Management Actions

Forecast

- Developed in the spring
- Based on parent/recruits from 51 years of data

Preseason Projection

- Developed in mid-July with 2025 summer chum salmon data.
- Based on summer/fall chum salmon run size relationship.

Inseason Assessment

- Fish counts, genetics, age class, and male/female ratios, and fishermen's reports.

Pilot Station Sonar camp, photo by Lindsey Dreese

Fall Chum Salmon Forecast Summary

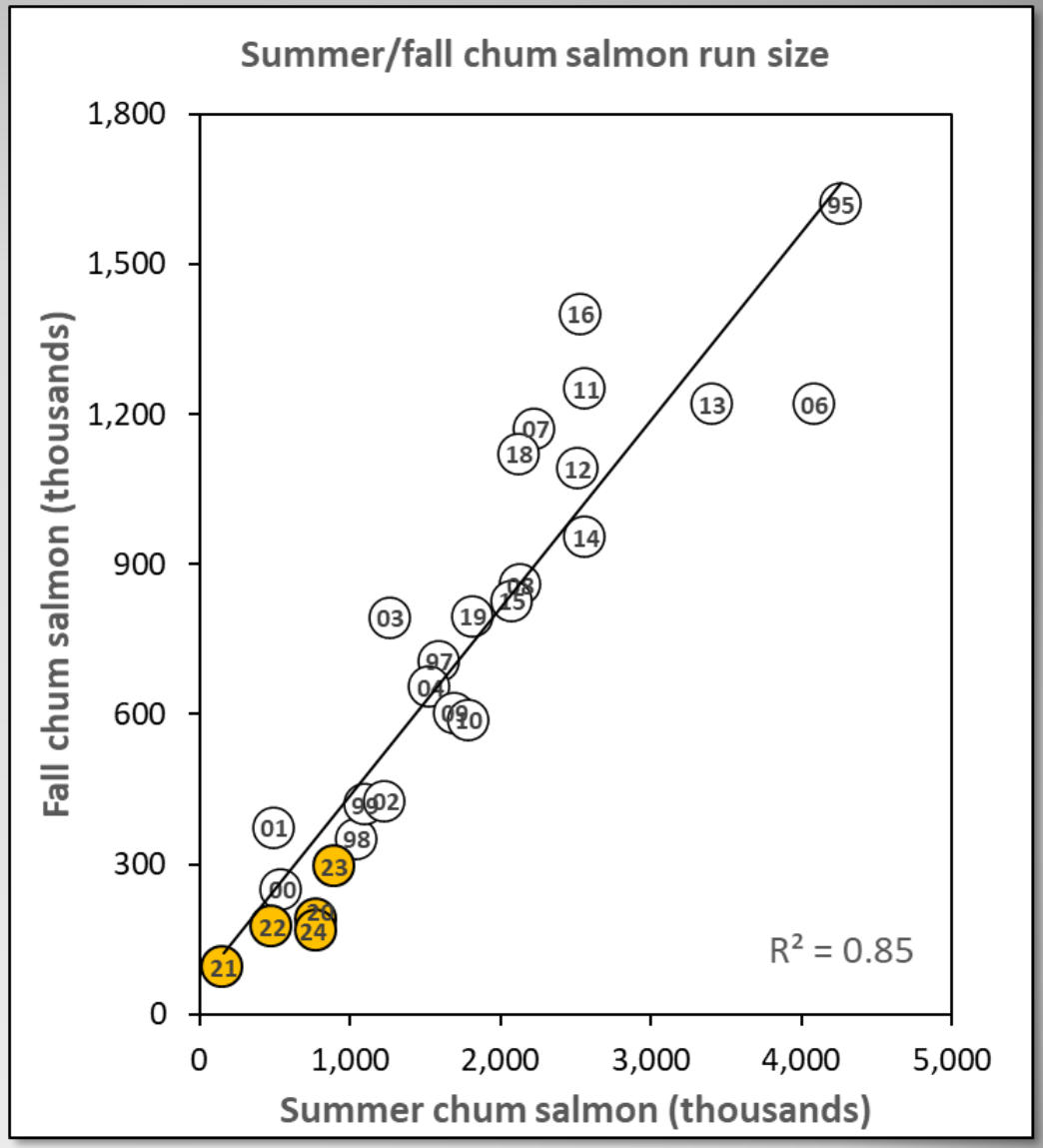
Component	Forecast (range)	Goal / IMEG
Yukon River Drainagewide	**218,000** (114,000 – 322,000)	300,000 – 600,000
CA-Mainstem Yukon River	**22,000** (8,000 – 48,000)	70,000 – 104,000

Canadian forecasts (adjusted for recent observed returns in 2022–2024):

- CA-Mainstem: Applied the average of the three most recent years of 10% to the midpoint.
  - Applied the minimum of 7% and maximum of 15% to develop the range.

Fall Chum Salmon Preseason Projection

- Developed mid-July.
- Based on:
  - 2025 inseason run strength of summer chum salmon.
  - Summer to fall chum salmon historical relationship.
- Informs initial fall season management decisions.
- Recent salmon decline 2020–2024.



Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan

Fall Chum Salmon Directed Fisheries			
Targeted Drainagewide Escapement Goal	**Projected Run Size**	**Subsistence**	**Commercial/Personal Use/Sport**
300,000	300,000 or less	Closed	Closed
	300,000 to 550,000	Possible Restrictions	Closed
600,000	Greater than 550,000	Open	Open

Expectation in 2025: salmon fishing closures

2025 Management Approach

- **Early season decisions will be based on:**
  - Preseason projection for fall chum salmon (summer/fall chum).
  - Local observations and recommendations.
  - Summer chum and Chinook salmon run strength.
  - Evaluation of escapement goals.
    - Closures, restrictions, and surplus for subsistence harvest opportunities.
- **Mid to late season decisions will be based on:**
  - Assessment project information.
    - Fish counts, genetics, age class, and male/female ratios.
  - Local observations and recommendations.
  - Inseason projections for fall chum and coho salmon.
  - Evaluation of escapement goals.
    - Closures, restrictions, and surplus for subsistence harvest opportunities.

2025 Management Strategies: Subsistence Fishing

- Fall chum salmon fishing closures.
- Prior to fall chum salmon run arriving in lower river (if not seeing large numbers of probable fall chum salmon in LYTF/Pilot Station genetics), possibility of additional summer chum salmon opportunity with selective gear.
    - Would be based on inseason run abundance information for both summer and fall chum salmon runs.
- Selective gear for nonsalmon.
    - Dip nets, hook and line, beach seines, and manned fish wheels.
    - Required release of any specified salmon species.
- 4-inch or smaller mesh set gillnets for nonsalmon only, limited to 60 feet in length, with additional time and area closure approaches to limit the potential for incidental harvest of salmon.

Contacts and Acknowledgments

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Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tanana Chiefs Conference
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Photo by Christy Gleason