

Subsistence Fishing in North Slope Alaska

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Iñupiaq from Barrow, Alaska

Photo Credit: Me, taken at Ikpikpak = our fish camp



Ikpikpak, as much as I've enjoyed Norway, I'd rather be there looking for wolves & wolverines!



Brief history on fishing the North Slope Alaska



- Archaeological evidence & Radio Carbon dating suggest earliest human occupation 11,500-10,500 years ago; Traditional histories suggest: Time immemorial
- We are a whaling people and always have, but we are fishers and hunters too. To survive in this harsh often called frozen wasteland we have to be! Adaptation is a must.

- Fishing has been extremely important for our Iñupiat people. Fishing has permitted survival in these areas despite fluctuations in the supply of other food resources.
- Fish also provided food for dogs
- There are many areas on the North Slope that folks in times of starvation could go to for fish- you can still get fish in those areas today.



Fishing patterns of North Slope fisherman are adapted to the life histories of the species being sought. Approximately 22 species are harvested, with their availability in different areas influenced by spawning, overwintering and feeding behavior.



Burbot



Broad White Fish

















“Aanaakliq” Broad Whitefish (*Coregonus nasus*)

“Pikuktuuq” Humpback whitefish (*Coregonus pidschian*)

“Iqalusaaq” Least Cisco (*Coregonus sadinella*)

“Qaaktaq” Arctic Cisco (*Coregonus autumnalis*)

“Tiipuq” Bering cisco (*Coregonus laurettae*)

“Sulukpaugaq” Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*)

“Savigunnaq” Round whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*)

“Milugiaq” Longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*)

“Iqalukpik” Dolly varden (*salvelinus malma*)

“Paikluk” Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*)

“Siulik” Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)

“ilhuagniq” Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*)

“Iqalugaq” Arctic Cod (*Boreogadus saida*)

“uugaq” Saffron Cod (*Eleginus gracilis*)

“Nataagniq” Arctic Flounder (*Liopsetta glacialis*)
“Nataagnaq” Starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*)
Burbot (*lota lota*)
“Nimigiaq” Arctic Lamprey (*Lampetra japonica*)
“Iqaluaqpak” Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*)
“Iqalugruaq” Chinook (King) salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
“Iqalugruaq” Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
“Amaqtuuq” Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)
“Iluuqniq” Alaska Blackfish (*Dallia pectoralis*)
“Kakalisauraq” 3 & 9 spine stickleback (*pungitus pungitius*)
“Kanayuuq” Slimy & fourhorn Sculpin
“Panmaksraq” Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*)
“Uqsruqtuuq” Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*)



Management of our Subsistence Fishing:

Managing is done by us: We catch what we need to last us the winter.

Problems we are faced with: Climate Change







A sunset over a body of water with a sandy beach in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun. The water is calm, and the beach is visible in the foreground.

Conclusion:
My fishing story!

How big was your fish?
Mine was 30 tons!





My 30 ton fish = "Agviq"
Bowhead



Quyanaqqak!