



# Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

## Your Voice in Salmon Management

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### Why are fishers switching to smaller mesh sizes?

Fishers have expressed concern that they are catching smaller Chinook salmon than they used to on the Yukon River. Multiple factors may affect the size of Chinook. Specific concerns were raised regarding large mesh nets removing larger and older Chinook (mostly female) than smaller mesh nets. A concern is that harvesting the larger Chinook will result in smaller salmon spawning, which could contribute to smaller offspring. Scientists found that Chinook have slowly been getting smaller. This is concerning. Recent research found that Chinook length has decreased 6% but that potential offspring production has decreased by about 15%.

Salmon managers took action. In 2011 Alaskan fishers were restricted to using 7.5" mesh size or smaller. In Canada, First Nation fisheries are managed by First Nation Governments and most already used smaller mesh. The Canadian Chinook commercial and domestic fisheries has not operated since 2009 and would have been restriction to 6" mesh. Since 2019 the Yukon River Panel recommended Yukoners use 6" or smaller mesh nets in the Yukon River.

### How do you measure your mesh size?

The most common way of measuring mesh size, is the stretch mesh size. Stretch the mesh vertically from knot to knot and measure from the centre of each knot, as shown in the figure.

Image from: <https://www.redden-net.com/materials-and-measurements/>

