

Ways to Help and Ways to Hinder

Priorities for Enhancing Mitigative and Adaptive Solutions

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Driving Questions

How are the myriad, ongoing social and ecological transitions in the North impacting the health of people, communities, and ecosystems?

- Climatic and environmental change
- Demographic and social change
- The rising costs of food and fuel
- The nutrition transition

What are the institutional dimensions that condition people's ability to effectively respond to these challenges?



Changes, Challenges

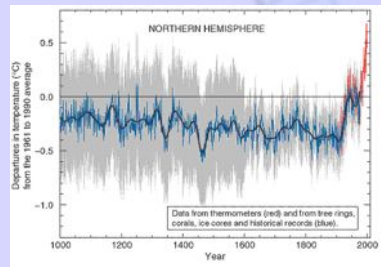


- Drivers and Agents of Change

- Biophysical
- Socioeconomic
- Behavioral, cultural

- Directional Change?

- Cumulative effects
- Feedbacks and interactions
- Tipping points



Ways of Thinking about the Problems

- Short term
 - Impacts mitigation
- Longer term
 - Vulnerability
 - Resilience
 - Human health & environmental security
- Place based and institutional responses
 - How and where do these converge?
- Must pay attention to how these world-views condition our responses



Case in Point: Yukon River Salmon

- 2009 Chinook (King) Fishery
- Management Success?
- Fisheries Disaster?
- Conflict between food security and conservation goals?
- Differentially-distributed impacts on people, ecosystems
 - Short term food shortage
 - Long term community viability



December 9, 2009 LOGIN

Alaska Dispatch

News and voices from the Last Frontier

HOME **DISPATCHES** VOICES BLOGS CULTURE PROJECTS

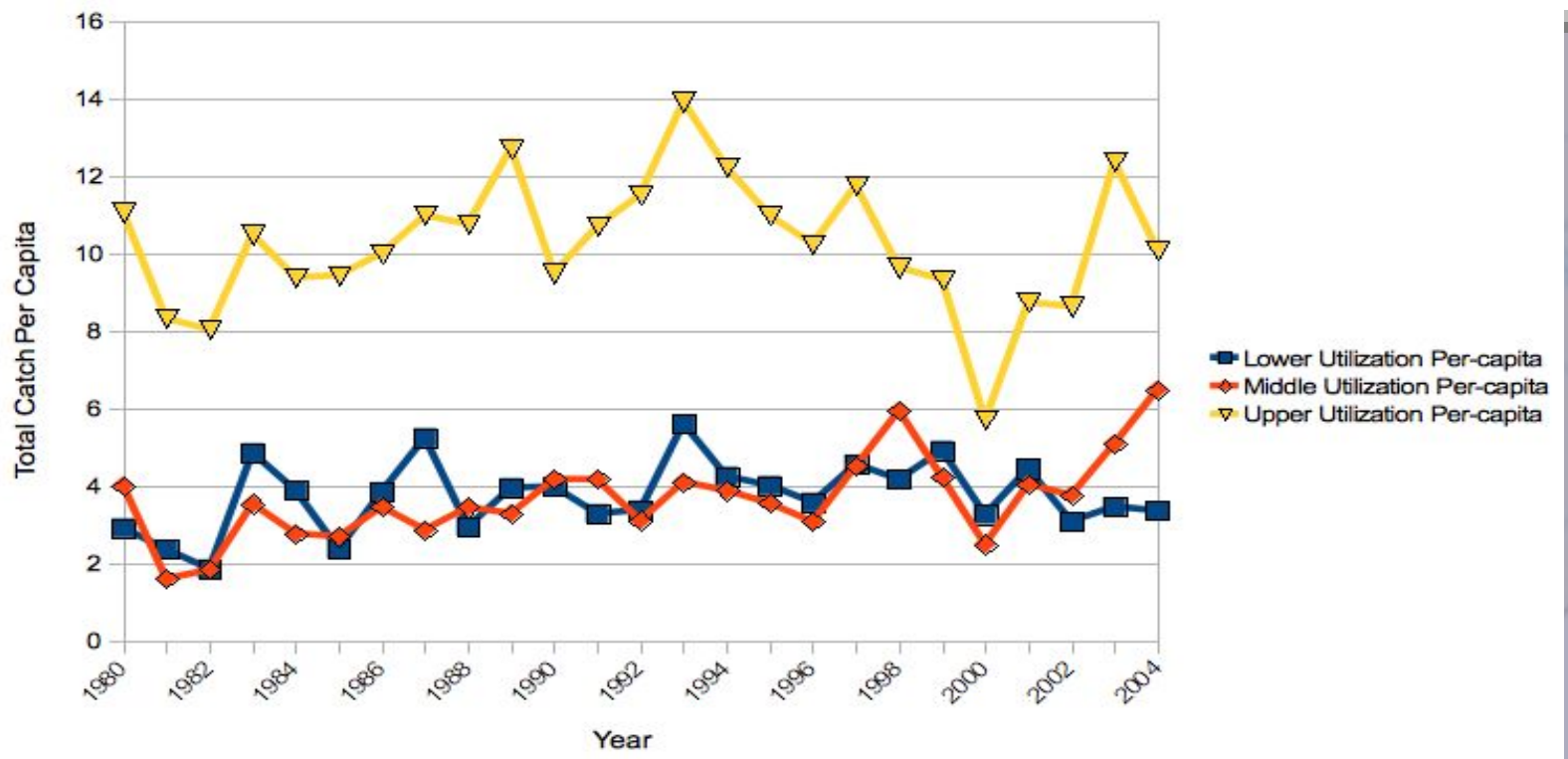
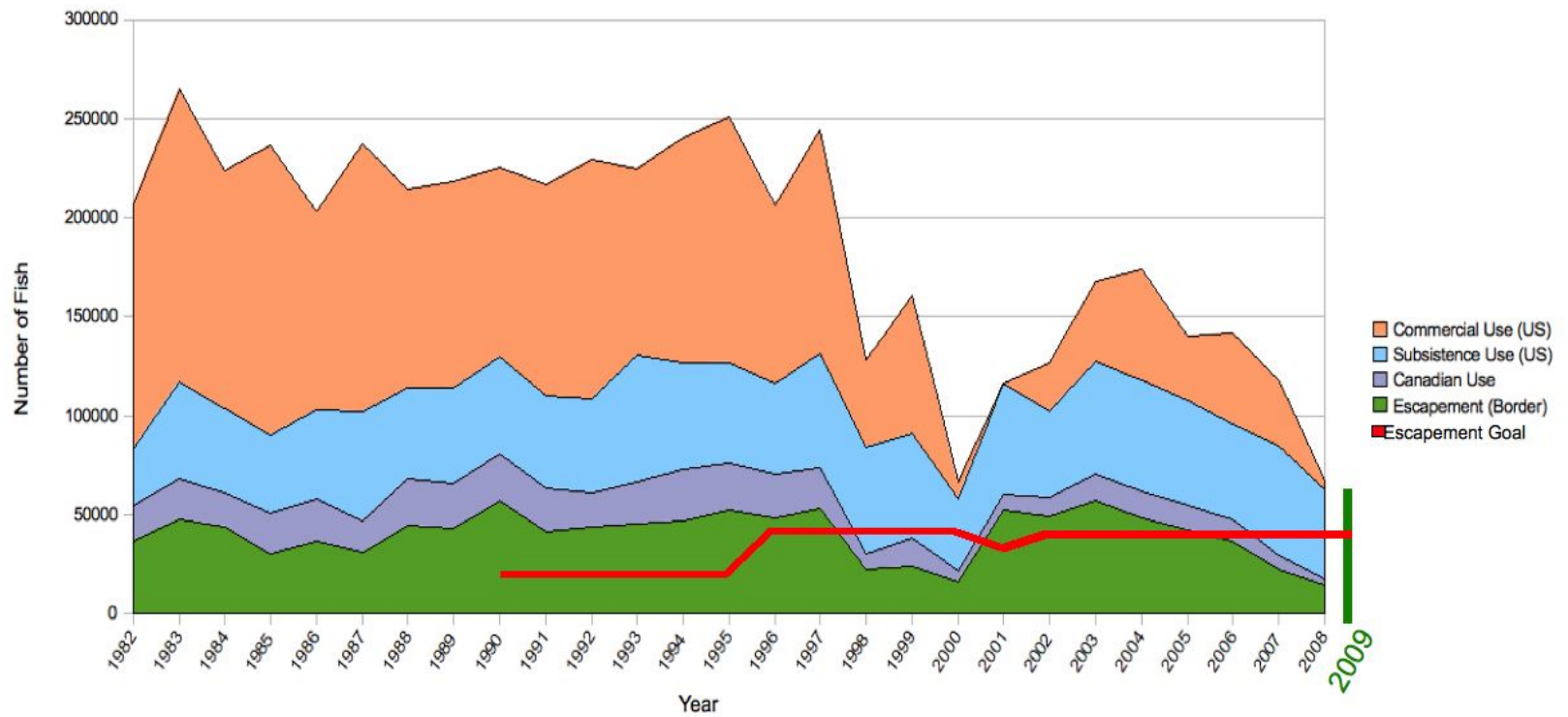
Rural Alaska

Alaska awaits word on fisheries disaster

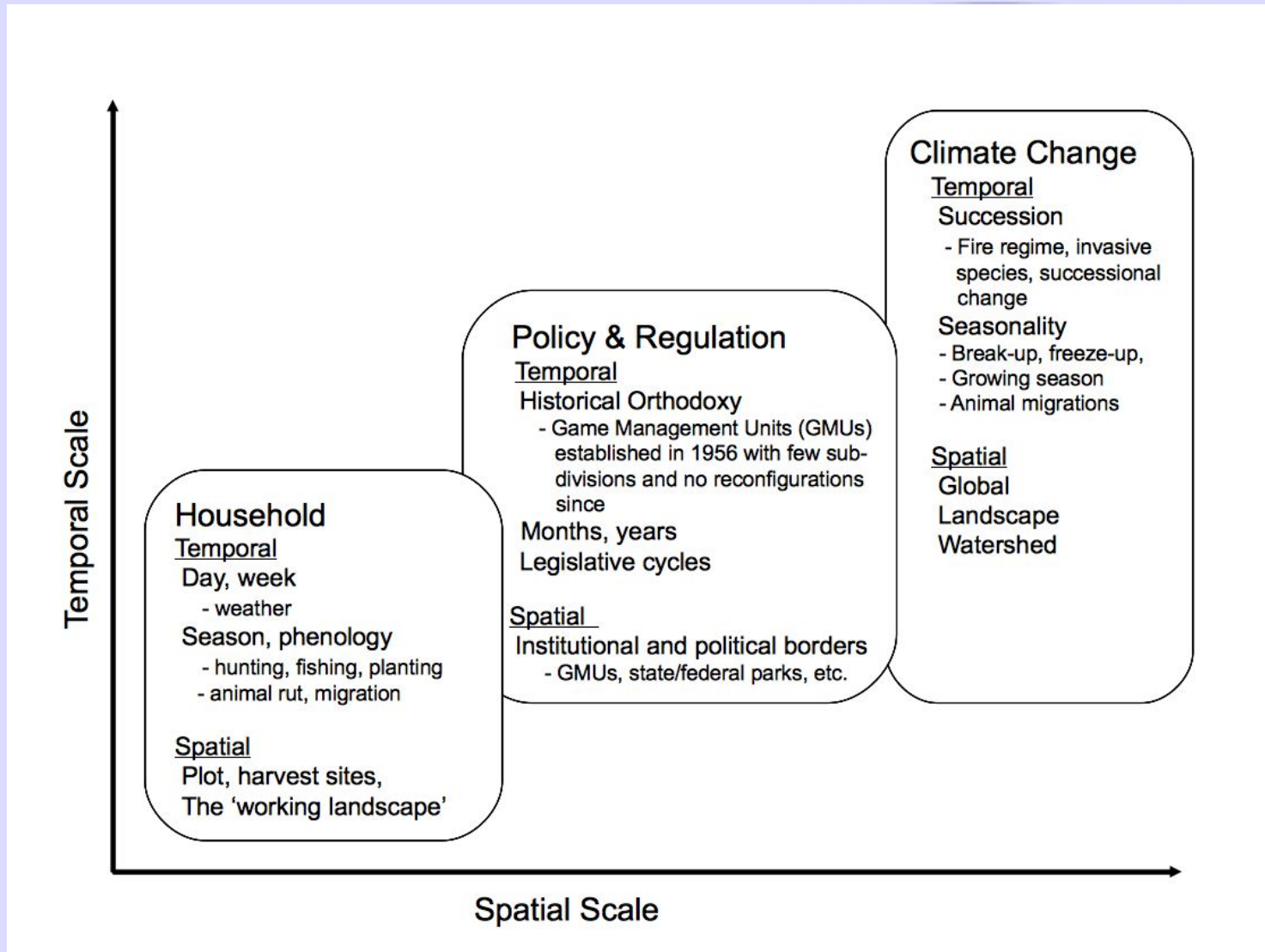
Jill Burke PRINT EMAIL ADD THIS
Dec 7, 2009

Four months after putting in a request for a federal fishery disaster declaration with the U.S. Department of Commerce, the state of Alaska is still waiting for an answer. Closures to the Yukon River king salmon fishery this summer shut off crucial income opportunities for fishermen, and also impacted their ability to fish for food. An answer from Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke is expected soon, but approval of the request doesn't itself guarantee financial relief to the families that need it.

The process of declaring a disaster can take from several weeks to a number of months, according to Gaylen Tromble, chief of the Domestic Fisheries Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. Fisheries disaster assistance is administered by NOAA through the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Commerce. Once a determination is made, NOAA acts as a conduit between any money set aside by Congress for relief and the state. No congressional appropriation is currently in place for Yukon River fisheries disaster assistance; however, congressional



Ways to Help or Hinder



Matching roles and responsibilities with experience and knowledge at each level of organization



Ways to Help or Hinder

- Information, facilitation, participation, and support
- Innovation and self-reliance
 - New (old) modes of residence?
 - What is customary and traditional?
- Linking local solutions to regional outcomes of health, resilience, sustainability

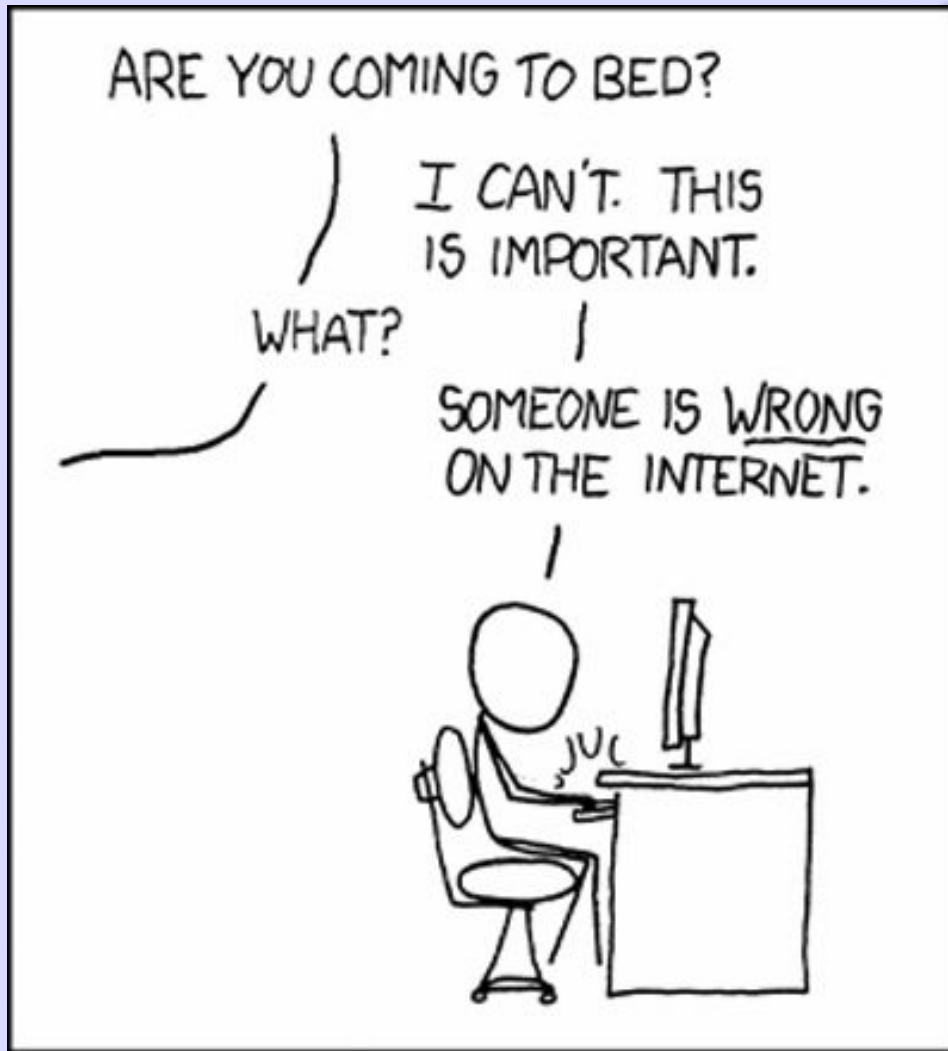


Observe, Understand, Respond

- Responses are only as effective as the observations and understanding that drives them
 - Theory and 'knowledge to action'
- Collaboratory approaches to develop place-based understanding with regional relevance
 - Local knowledge versus local experts
 - Distributed decision making
 - Cross-regional collaboration
 - A fuller, not a purer science
 - Multiple ways of knowing can increase parity, reduce “negative learning”



A Final Thought...



Sea Ice Outlook





The (rear) End

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