



Healthy Ecosystems



Healthy Fish

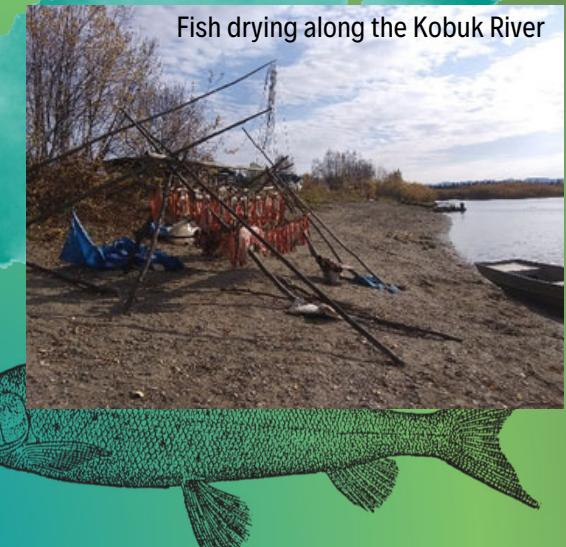
Mercury and PFAS in Brooks Range Rivers

What was tested?

Filets from Arctic grayling, northern pike, slimy sculpin, whitefish, and longnose suckers were collected in 2023 and 2024 by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and analyzed to see the levels of heavy metals (including mercury) and PFAS (artificially produced chemicals found in fire fighting foam). River sediment, aquatic vegetation, and invertebrates were also tested.



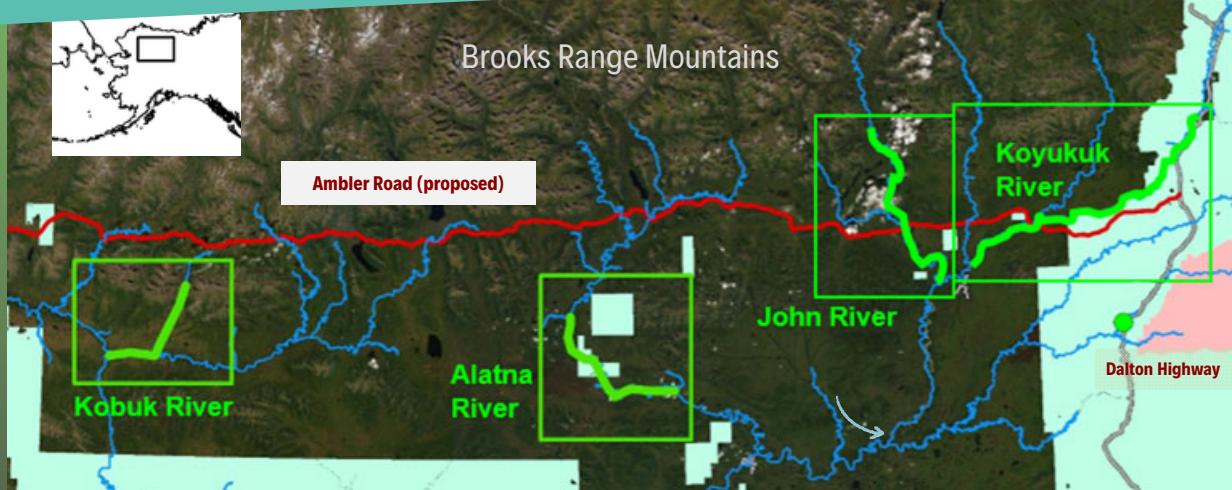
Alatna River northern pike



Fish drying along the Kobuk River

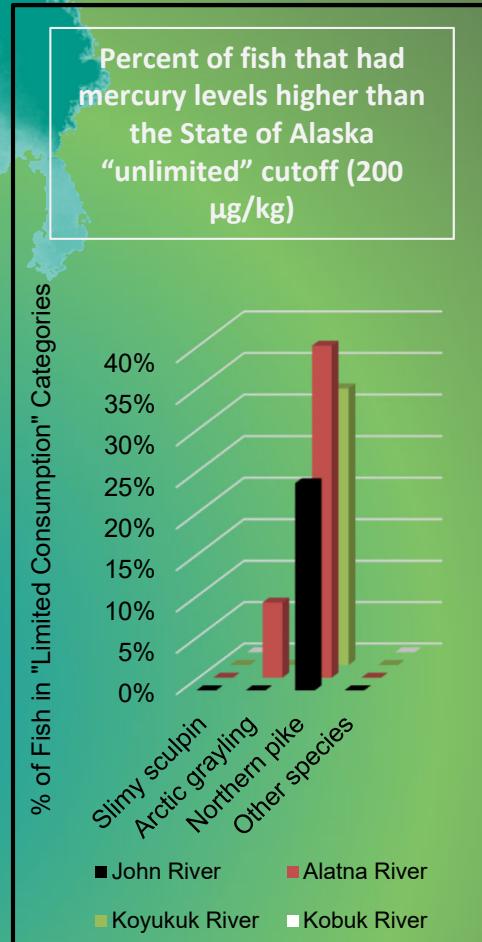
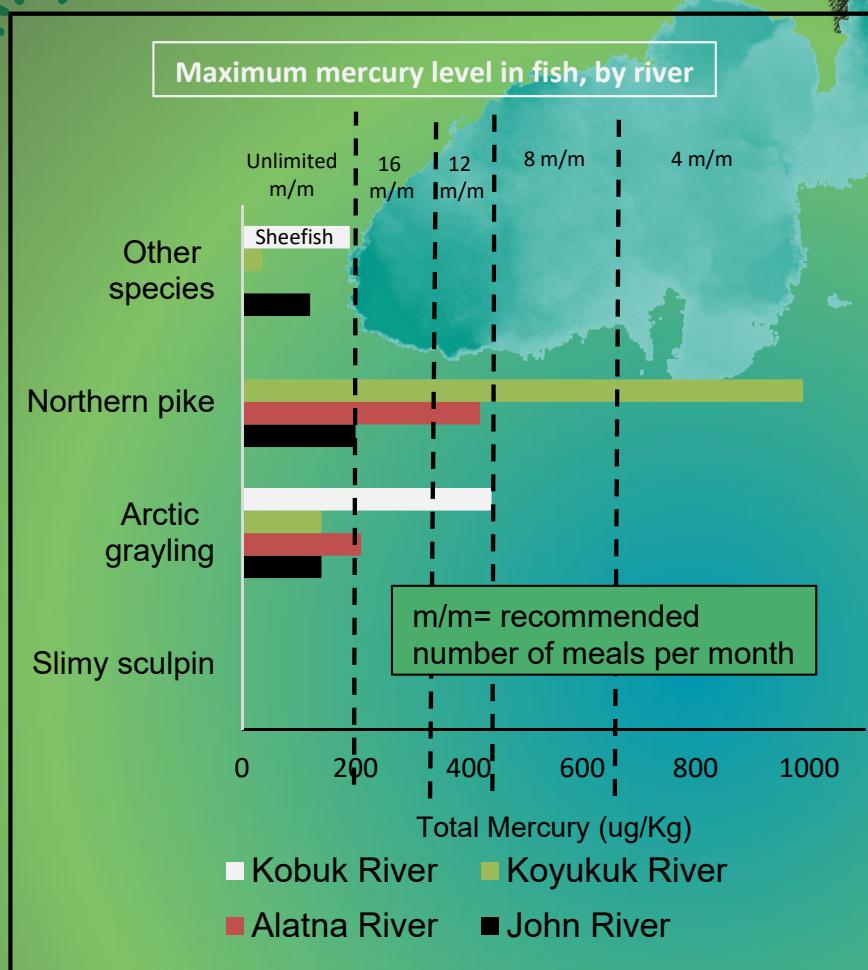
These were assessed to get an idea of the current amount of contaminants in aquatic ecosystems, in case of future development, such as mines, roads or infrastructure. A secondary goal was to inform people about the health of the fish they are eating.

Which rivers were studied?





What were the results?



PFAS were not detected or were $<1.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ for all fish = Very low!



Read more about the study and see detailed findings

SCAN ME!



What does this mean for people who eat fish from these rivers?

All species tested appear to be very healthy to eat, but pregnant women and children should limit their number of meals per month of large northern pike, to minimize intake of mercury.