

# Building and Maintaining Public Support of Salmon Resource Management

## R&M#01-08

**Project Proponent:** Jason Hale, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, 725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3-B Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

### 1. Introduction:

#### *Objectives:*

The purpose of FWS Agreement No.: 701818G494, was to build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, management of Canadian-origin salmon. Funds were used to achieve the following objectives:

1. To build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management, and
2. To establish a dependable communications and education infrastructure that can be built upon every year.

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YR DFA) achieved these objectives through a combination of outreach strategies. YR DFA hosted, published and distributed newsletters, promoted and conducted teleconferences, coordinated an international educational exchange, maintained an informational website, and developed outreach materials on current topics of interest.

### **Tasks and Accomplishments:**

- 1. Schedule and host the YR DFA Annual Meeting, to include: discussion of fishery management strategies and methodologies as well as current river-wide issues between management agency personnel and residents of the Yukon River drainage; arranging and providing travel through charter service and per diem expenses of select village representatives, YR DFA representatives, fishermen, and other residents of the Yukon River drainage; and holding the meeting in a different village in the Yukon River drainage each year.**

YR DFA held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Hooper Bay from March 2-5, 2009. The meeting was part board meeting and part educational conference. Due to a large winter storm, representatives from Y-1, -2, and -3 were not able to fly in to Hooper Bay, but participants were present from all the upper river fishing districts. In addition, several fishers and other subsistence users from Hooper Bay attended and participated in the meeting. Representatives of USFWS, ADF&G, and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council were also in attendance. Roughly 30 people attended and actively participated in the meeting. Those who could not fly in attempted to call in to the meeting through a teleconference; unfortunately the quality of the connection was poor and this approach was abandoned after a few hours.

A host of current topics of importance to Yukon River drainage fisheries were discussed. See Appendix A for meeting agenda. Attendees were asked to bring knowledge learned back to their home communities, thus spreading the impact of this meeting through meaningful

person-to-person discussions in villages across the drainage.

To ensure that representatives from all fishing districts could gather together and discuss the current topics of importance, and to provide a quorum for the YRDFA Board for the purpose of making resolutions, YRDFA continued the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Fairbanks on April 6. More than 20 people attended, including YRDFA's Board of Directors and other interested individuals from throughout the drainage who were in Fairbanks for other fisheries meetings. Most of the discussion focused on strategies for managing the projected poor 2009 Chinook salmon run, though several other current topics of concern were addressed. See Appendix A for a list of resolutions passed by the YRDFA Board of Directors.

This grant provided for bringing a majority of the attendees to Hooper Bay and Fairbanks, as well as food, lodging, per diem. It also covered the hiring of local assistants in Hooper Bay – namely, cooks, a local liaison, and drivers.

**2. Publish and distribute three newsletters containing current Yukon River fisheries information.**

As in past years, the newsletter *Yukon Fisheries News* was published three times during the grant period – Fall (November), Winter (March), and Spring (May). It was mailed to over 2,000 households, tribal organizations, agency representatives, and city offices, and it was posted on the YRDFA website. Topics included the Yukon River Panel, Bering Sea marine bycatch, the 2009 summer season preparedness process, whitefish research planning, and other fishery-related issues of concern on the Yukon River. The Fall and Spring issues were 16 pages; the Winter issue was 12 pages, which is the traditional length for this newsletter. See Appendix B for copies of these newsletters.

**3. Host inseason salmon management teleconferences to enable participation by fishers, villagers, and management agency representatives and to provide information on the status of Yukon River salmon returns, harvests, and pending management actions.**

Teleconference calls were a means to exchange information on run timing, abundance, and escapement data; discuss management strategies; facilitate open dialogue between users and management entities; and enable salmon resource users drainage-wide, including Canadians, to communicate.

Fourteen inseason management teleconferences were facilitated by YRDFA every Tuesday from June 3 to September 2, 2008. Record numbers of people called in to these weekly teleconferences to discuss and learn about the salmon runs. An average of 19 Yukon River communities participated in the call each week, which is 37 percent higher than the average of the previous 5 years.

Typically, the number of people who called in to listen was two times the number of people who participated. In other words, if 20 people were actively participating in the call, another 40 people were silently listening. Management agencies, processors, and other interested parties were regularly on the line, as well. At its peak – June 24, near the midpoint of the run in the lower river – 31 communities were active on the call and 114 phone lines were dialed in. Summaries of each call were written and distributed to teleconference participants within

five days of the call (see Appendix C).

**4. Host or attend at least three regional teleconferences in select Yukon River drainage villages.**

In January and February 2009, YR DFA held six regional teleconferences – two each in the lower, middle, and upper river areas – to discuss the projected poor Chinook salmon run for 2009 and explore best approaches for handling it. Tribal Councils, local fishers, processors, Regional Advisory Council members, intertribal consortiums, and other stakeholders participated in the calls, which were publicized throughout the Yukon River drainage. ADF&G and USFWS were deeply involved in the planning and execution process.

Agenda items for the first teleconference included the 2009 Chinook salmon run projection, implications of this projection for fishers, and possible approaches to responsibly managing the run with the least possible amount of hardship on stakeholders. The agenda for the second teleconference included a summary of the first call, a continuation of the general dialog concerning the run, and a more focused discussion on the most suitable management approaches. YR DFA chose a regional approach to the teleconferences to boost efficiency by keeping groups with similar fishing approaches and challenges together. See Appendix D for a summary of these teleconferences.

Following the second round of teleconferences, select representatives from the calls came together to a river-wide meeting in Fairbanks to continue the discussion and provide fisheries managers with specific, thoroughly discussed recommendations.

This grant covered some of the staff time needed for the promotion and execution of these teleconferences.

**5. Coordinate an educational exchange between Canadian and American fishers on the Yukon River to provide a venue for these fishers to explore, experience, and understand regional and cultural differences regarding fisheries issues.**

The Yukon River Educational Exchange has taken place five times, always with the same goal: to provide an opportunity for diverse groups of people involved in salmon fisheries along the Yukon River to experience regional and cultural differences regarding fisheries issues, understand fisheries management techniques, and appreciate the various concerns of people that rely on Canadian-origin king salmon and fall chum salmon. Canadians visit Alaska, and the next year Alaskans travel to Canada.

In 2008, it was the Canadian's turn to visit Alaska. Canadian participants included Lynch Curry, a commercial and subsistence fisher from Pelly Crossing; Madeleine Jackson, an important fisher from Teslin; Noreen Hirtle, executive director of Selkirk Renewable Resources Council from Pelly Crossing; Coralee Johns, a fisher and environmental technician from Whitehorse; and Jeffrey Peter, a fisher and Parks Canada employee from Old Crow. These individuals shared knowledge as they traveled through the U.S. and related what they learned to others in their home villages. Over the course of eight days in June, they visited Emmonak, Pilot Station, Tanana, Rampart Rapids, and Fairbanks. They visited fish camps, commercial processing operations, management assessment projects, a local festival,

and learned about such diverse topics as fish drying techniques, management strategies, and the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*. See Appendix E for a detailed itinerary.

After the exchange, YRDFA arranged travel for two of the participants – Lynch Curry from Pelly Crossing and Madeleine Jackson from Teslin – to the spring Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse. The purpose of this trip was to continue the sharing of information and further develop the international fisheries knowledge of these participants so they could serve as even better resources to their communities. Both individuals participated in the meeting and gained further insight into Yukon River fishery issues and decision making processes.

This grant covered some of the staff time used to coordinate and execute this exchange, as well as travel costs for participants to attend the spring Yukon River Panel meeting.

## 6. Produce educational materials as opportunity, need, and interest arise.

Website Maintenance: YRDFA's website ([www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org)) contains information about the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, teleconference and meeting summaries, and links to other valuable sources of information. The ability to maintain and update this information when appropriate, and on a continual basis, is supported by this grant. Renewal of the website domain name, web hosting, and technical support are also supported by this grant.

Bycatch Mailer: Following the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's action on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, YRDFA developed an informational mailer about the results of the action. This mailer was distributed to more than 2,000 households, processors, Tribal Councils, city offices, and others involved with Yukon River fisheries. See Appendix F for a copy of the mailer.

2009 Inseason Management Teleconference Promotions: As described in Section 3 of this report, YRDFA organizes and moderates river-wide teleconferences throughout the summer fishing season. Each spring, YRDFA promotes these teleconferences throughout the Yukon River drainage. The 2009 promotion effort included large posters with a map of the drainage and teleconference information; a flyer with more detailed information; business cards with the dates, time, phone number, and sample questions to be answered during the subsistence reports; and conservation posters to remind people of their shared responsibility to get enough Chinook salmon to the spawning grounds. All items but the conservation poster were distributed to more than 2,000 households, processors, Tribal Councils, city offices, and others involved with Yukon River fisheries. The conservation posters were distributed to Tribal Councils and city offices only. In addition, full-page newspaper ads were developed and run in newspapers servicing areas along the Yukon River. This grant supported design, printing, and postage for the promotional mailing, as well as a portion of the newspaper advertising expense. See Appendix G for a copy of these promotional items.



**Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

7:30 A.M.            *Breakfast*

9:00                    YRDFA Board member concerns

10:00                    \*BREAK\*

10:30 A.M.            Fisheries Reports and Outlook  
Chinook and Summer Chum Outlook            ADF&G, USFWS  
Fall Chum and Coho Outlook                    ADF&G, USFWS

12:30 – 2:30            *Lunch*

2:30 P.M.              Summer Season Planning 2009 River wide discussion YRDFA

3:30 – 4:00 P.M.      \*BREAK\*

4:00 P.M.              Natural Indicators of Salmon along the Yukon River YRDFA

5:00                    *Recess*

6:00 P.M.              Dinner – community members invited

7:00 – 9:00            Evening Activity  
Area fisheries issues OPEN FORUM to share local fisheries issues and  
knowledge

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

7:30 A.M	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:00 A.M	Salmon Bycatch	Becca
10:00 A.M.	*BREAK*	
10:30	Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and other fishery reports Clarence Alexander and others	
11:30 A.M.	Discussion with High School Students & YRDFA Board	
12:30 – 2:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
2:00 P.M.	Federal Subsistence Board & Board of Fisheries Proposals proposals, data, research: fish size, escapement goals, stocks of concern	Becca
3:00 – 3:30	*BREAK*	
3:30 P.M.	2009 Resolutions	
5:00	Recess	
6:00 P.M.	Community Potluck	
7:30	Raffle, Dance/Music	

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

7:30 A.M	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:00 A.M.	2009 Resolutions	
	Nominate primary and alternate 2010 meeting location sites	
	Closing comments	
	Adjourn	
	Departure	

## YR DFA Board Resolutions 2009

**Resolution 2009-01** is included in full on this page. In response to the forecast for poor returns in 2009 and the ongoing need to conserve Yukon River Chinook salmon, the YR DFA Board requested a 50 percent reduction of the subsistence windows fishing schedule to reduce effort by fishermen, thereby reducing harvest.

**Resolution 2009-02** expresses YR DFA's concern about the potential impacts of the Donlin Creek mine on salmon and salmon spawning habitat. Clean water for spawning and rearing is of vital importance for the wild salmon and other fish that provide for subsistence. Mining activity produces chemicals and pollution which cause severe damage to fish and fish habitat. Therefore, YR DFA expresses its concern that the mine, if permitted, operates with no impacts to the environment and, particularly, no impacts to aquatic life and habitat productivity.

**Resolution 2009-03** addresses hatcheries and roe stripping. Hatchery fish compete with Yukon River wild salmon for nutrition in the open ocean and are contributing to the declining size of Yukon River wild Chinook salmon. Roe stripping sets an undesirable precedent here in Alaska and depresses the price of salmon roe and flesh market for Yukon River fishers. Therefore YR DFA opposes allowing roe stripping in hatcheries and supports setting specific limits on hatchery production and decreasing funding and loans to private non-profit hatcheries.

**Resolution 2009-04** opposes offshore oil and gas drilling in Alaska, and particularly in Bristol Bay. Yukon River salmon and many millions of salmon from other regions pass through the area proposed for drilling in the North Aleutian Basin (Bristol Bay) in their time at sea before returning to their natal streams. The potential effects of drilling are numerous and deadly: pollution from drilling operations and oil spills from drilling operations and tankers can cause devastating effects on fish, wildlife and the marine environment for years to come. Because the flow pattern in the Bristol Bay area travels from south to north, a spill in this region could affect the Yukon River and associated ecosystem directly, causing direct impacts to vital subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Yukon River as well as in Bristol Bay. Therefore, YR DFA opposes oil and gas drilling offshore in Alaska and requests that current plans to hold lease sales in the North Aleutian Basin be stopped and that the North Aleutian Basin be withdrawn from any future leasing.

**Resolution 2009-05** expresses YR DFA's concerns over the development and implementation of the proposed Pebble Mine. Clean water is of vital importance for the survival of Alaskan wild salmon and other fish vital to providing subsistence resources. Mining activities and practices, including cyanide heap leaching of gold ores, threaten the long-term viability of Western Alaska salmon and other fish stocks by allowing increased pollution and degradation of vital stream habitat. Therefore YR DFA shares the concerns of many of those in the Bristol Bay region about the proposed Pebble Mine project.

**Resolution 2009-06** expresses YR DFA's support for legislation requiring citizen oversight of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPs). The Trans-Alaska pipeline crosses the Yukon

River and its tributaries at several points. A break in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline could result in the rapid disbursement of oil throughout the Yukon River. An oil spill in the Yukon River would have catastrophic impacts on Yukon River fish, fisheries, and markets, and would cause long-term damage to the ecosystem. There is currently no formal citizen oversight for the TAPS. Therefore YRDFA supports the creation and funding of a Trans-Alaska Pipeline Citizen Advisory Council to provide for pipeline operations environmental oversight and monitoring.

**Resolution 2009-07** gratefully thanks the people of Hooper Bay for their generosity and hospitality. The YRDFA Board Members, delegates, and staff of YRDFA thank the Hooper Bay School and staff, the City and Tribal Council, the cooks, the drivers, the dancers, the Elders, and the people of Hooper Bay, whose contributions made for a wonderful and productive Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

## **Appendix B- YR DFA Newsletters**

*(Yukon Fisheries News- Fall 2007, Winter 2008, Spring 2008 editions- attached)*

Note: newsletters can also be found on the YR DFA website at  
[www.yukonsalmon.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.yukonsalmon.org/newsletters.htm)

## Appendix C – Inseason Management Teleconference Summaries

### Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference Call #1 – June 3, 2008

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** US Fish and Wildlife Service – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** St. Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Huslia, Hughes, Galena, Ruby, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Old Crow, Dawson

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADFG – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	AVCP
USFWS – Anchorage, Fairbanks	TCC
DFO – Whitehorse	North Yukon RRC

**Subsistence Reports:**

Salmon fishing has not yet begun. Some sheefish catches were reported in Pilot Station, Marshall, Grayling, and Old Crow while whitefish are being caught in Ruby, Huslia, Nulato, the G.A.S.H. Region, Pilot Station, and Old Crow. Huslia also reported a few pike being caught. Some lower river communities noted people were out getting logs for firewood.

Generally, water levels along the rivers are dropping, with below average levels reported in Hughes and Dawson. A lot of snow is reported in the lower Koyukuk which is anticipated to lead to rising water levels. Water levels in the Robertson, Salcha, Chena and Goodpasture Rivers are reported as very low. Snowpack in the upper Tanana is light so not much of a rise is predicted. Overall the debris levels are low, except in Fort Yukon which is reporting lots of drift.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment:* Subsistence fishing efforts are light and there have been no confirmed salmon catches to date, although 1-2 kings may have been recently caught in the Alakanuk area. The Emmonak Fish & Game office is open, and nets for the test fishery went in the water at Big Eddy on June 1. One king was caught on June 2. The Middle Mouth set nets should be operational by June 4. Partial test fishing in Pilot Station began on May 29 with the right bank sonar up and running as of May 30. The left bank sonar should be up by June 7. No salmon have been caught but some sheefish, whitefish and cisco have. The Marshall drift project will begin test fishing on June 11. There will also be a salmon data collection project in Y-4 with a Chinook genetics component.

*Run and Harvest Outlook:* Although ice break up in the lower river occurred with near average timing around May 24, there are insufficient data currently available to estimate the run timing for Chinook salmon. Therefore management decisions will be made consistent with preseason projection, moving to inseason management of the runs once salmon abundance increases.

The 2008 run is expected to be below average, similar to the 2007 run. It is expected to provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest and a below average commercial harvest. If inseason indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance for a commercial Chinook salmon fishery, the commercial harvest could range from 5,000 to 30,000 Chinook salmon.

An average run of summer chum salmon is projected for 2008 that will provide for escapement needs and subsistence uses as well as a commercial harvest, anticipated to be between 500,000 and 900,000.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be used until the salmon run size is projected to be of sufficient strength to warrant discontinuing the schedule. Because of the weak Chinook run in 2007, the Chinook directed commercial fishing will be delayed until the midpoint of the run. If a surplus beyond escapement and subsistence needs is identified at that point, Chinook directed openings may occur. No districts have been opened to commercial fishing at this time.

ADF&G announced they would be in Eagle on June 4<sup>th</sup> to issue subsistence fishing permits.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* Andrafsky and Gisasa will be operating this year and should be counting fish near the end of June. The Federal Subsistence Board expanded the 4B and 4C drift gillnet time at their meeting this winter from the last 18 hours of the subsistence window to the entire subsistence fishing schedule (two 48 hour periods).

*DFO Input:* The Joint Technical Committee of the Yukon River Panel established a one year interim escapement Eagle sonar goal of 45,000 Chinook salmon which is 30% more fish than they saw last year. They are waiting to see how this will play out with below average runs expected this year. Stewart and Pelly River levels were quite high last week.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Several fishermen expressed concern at the rising gas and oil prices and the effect that will have on the ability of people to fish. Currently in Fort Yukon gas averages \$5.50/gallon and oil is at \$6/quart, while Nulato is seeing \$5.00/gallon gas.

There will potentially be a renewal of a chum salmon commercial fishery opening in the Y-4A district this year. If that happens, a question was asked regarding how the management agencies will divide up the chum. ADF&G replied that they are still working with interested buyers but do not currently have a good handle on who will come in. The buyers are pretty limited in what they want so dividing the Guideline Harvest amount should not be too much of an issue.

Finally, a question was asked about the possibility that the current low water levels will keep the fish from coming. ADF&G responded that king salmon are being caught at Nelson Island. From there it usually takes 7 or 8 days for the fish to enter the Yukon, so more will be known next week about the salmon run.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #2 – June 10, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** US Fish and Wildlife Service – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Scammon Bay, Emmonak, Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Galena, Ruby, The Rapids, Old Minto, Nenana, Beaver, Eagle, Old Crow, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADFG – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	AVCP
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Marshall, Galena	TCC
Interior Alaska Fish Processors	North Yukon RRC

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence salmon fishing has begun, mostly in the lower river and coastal areas, but has been rather slow. Catches have been largely kings with a few chum. King salmon are reported as being small but of good quality. Sheefish, pike, grayling or whitefish are being caught in Pilot Station, Mountain Village, Grayling, Nulato, Huslia, Ruby, the Rapids, and the upper river reaches in Canada. People are heading to fish camps in Emmonak and the Rapids (where there are 2 fishwheels in); elsewhere they are getting nets and fishwheels ready and in the water. In Pilot Station, people are cutting and drying sheefish and whitefish.

Water levels in the lower river and G.A.S.H. region are holding pretty steady or slowly dropping. In Huslia the water levels peaked and are expected to start dropping. Water levels in the middle river are dropping and are low for this time of year in the Rapids. The Tanana River is very low. The upper river areas are seeing high water that's dropping some; in Teslin the water is quite high and the area continues to receive snow. Overall the debris levels are low, with the majority of communities reporting clear water. Fuel prices are still on the rise in many communities, which may be impacting who goes fishing and how.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment:* Chinook salmon have begun entering the lower river in small numbers but effort is light and harvest is low. High fuel prices appear to be causing a delay in fishing. Fishing efforts in the lower river should increase as the water level drops and salmon abundance increases. The lower Yukon test fishery became fully operational on June 4, with a cumulative CPUE through June 9 of .64, which is below the average of 2.53 for this date. The Pilot Station sonar project came fully on line June 5, with both banks providing passage estimates. The project's test fishery caught its first king on June 7 and its first chum on June 9. Preliminary sonar passage estimates through June 9 are 2,018 Chinook salmon and 117 summer chums. These estimates are lower than the averages for this date, which are approximately 5,000 kings and 19,000 chums. The Marshall Drift project will begin test fishing on June 11. ADF&G is expecting a large number of five year old fish returning to the river this year, which means they will tend to be smaller, although the fish tend to get larger as the season goes on.

*Run and Harvest Outlook:* There is insufficient data at this time to estimate run timing for king and summer chum salmon. Management decisions will continue to be made consistent with preseason projections, moving to inseason management of the runs as salmon abundance increases.

The 2008 Chinook salmon run is expected to be below average, similar to the 2007 run, with the possibility of a below average commercial harvest (potentially ranging from 5,000 to 30,000 Chinook

salmon). An average run of summer chum salmon is projected for 2008 that will provide for escapement needs and subsistence uses as well as a commercial harvest, anticipated to be between 500,000 and 900,000.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be used until the salmon run size is projected to be of sufficient strength to warrant discontinuing the schedule. Because of the weak Chinook run in 2007, the decision on a Chinook directed commercial fishing will be delayed until the midpoint of the run.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* Andreafsky and Gisasa crews are in route to getting set up. The inseason subsistence harvest interview project is also getting up and running.

### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

The majority of the question period centered on management's data. Specifically, clarification was requested on the daily fish numbers coming out of the Pilot Station project, and in particular if the drastic variation reflected in those numbers was normal. Managers explained that early in the season high variability in catch rates is normal. Another question asked for clarification of when the commercial fishery would be opened and ADF&G responded that because they are somewhat concerned about low returns of fish, they would wait until the mid point of the run to make that decision. What data ADF&G Commercial Fisheries uses to determine the half way point of the run in order to decide on a commercial opener was also questioned. ADF&G noted that three data sets are used – primarily the lower river test fishery, with data going back to 1989; also the current year of subsistence reports, and; the Pilot Station sonar going back to 1995. It was clarified that while they look at the averages for these data sets over time, managers also compare the current year with individual past years because there is much variability from year to year.

This led to the question of how this year compares historically in terms of run timing and abundance. ADF&G replied that because there are still so few projects running, it was difficult to give an answer. However, the run seems late and similar reports have come in from other areas of the state. Run strength also appears to be lower this year, but it is still too early to tell.

In response to a comment that some people in the middle river were disappointed that the fishing schedule was already in effect even though there were no salmon yet, ADF&G clarified that people can still fish with smaller than 4-inch mesh nets even when the schedule is closed.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #3 – June 17, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** US Fish and Wildlife Service – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Alakanuk, Emmonak, Mountain Village, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, the Rapids, Old Minto, Nenana, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Old Crow, Pelly, Whitehorse, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks	AVCP
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Galena	TCC
DFO – Whitehorse	Selkirk RRC
Interior Alaska Fish Processors	NPS

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence salmon fishing is continuing along the lower river and beginning upriver; the first king salmon was caught in Galena on June 16. The fish quality is being reported as bright and big. Chum nets are set in Galena and chums are being caught in the lower river. While some fish camps and wheels are just getting up and running, some lower river villages report that smokehouses are up to 50% full. Whitefish, sheefish and pike are being caught in the Canadian reaches of the river.

Water levels in general are dropping in the lower parts of the river and the G.A.S.H. region. Water levels are rising in Ruby, the Rapids and along the Tanana River. The upper river areas are seeing high water that’s dropping.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment:* Districts Y-1 and Y-2 have been harvesting kings in greater numbers during the most recent windows. Summer chum are beginning to enter the river and some fishers have been successful in targeting them. However, the overall subsistence harvest of both king and summer chum remains low and effort light. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) has detected the beginning of the first pulse of kings entering the river. Catch rates increased on June 14 and have continued through June 17. The catch per unit effort remains below the average for this date (4.34 as compared to an average of 7.59). The Chinook age-composition of the test fishery was largely age-5 and age-6 fish (55% and 43%, respectively). The percent of females was 37%, below average but not cause for concern at this point. It is largely due to the high percentage of age-5 fish, which have a low percentage of females as compared to age-6 fish.

The summer chum drift net fishery became operational on June 16, catching 124 chum that day. The Pilot Station Sonar estimate through June 16 is 10,200 Chinook (below the average of 33,200 fish) and 42,200 summer chum (below the average of 118,500 fish). The Marshall test fishery also became operational on June 11. The cumulative CPUE is 22.58, below the average of 54.66 for this date.

*Run and Harvest Outlook:* Chinook and summer chum abundance has increased over the past weekend. The first pulse of Chinook being detected by the LYTF will be more clearly understood once it is assessed by the Pilot Station sonar and Marshall drift project, although it appears the run is about 2-3 days late. Due to the limited amount of assessment information currently available, it is difficult to estimate the run timing of Chinook and summer chum. Management decisions will continue to be made consistent with

preseason projection, but will increasingly be made based on inseason assessment as more information becomes available.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be used until the salmon run size is projected to be of sufficient strength to warrant discontinuing the schedule. Because of the weak Chinook run in 2007, the Chinook directed commercial fishing will be delayed until the midpoint of the run. If a surplus beyond escapement and subsistence needs is identified at that point, Chinook directed openings may occur. No districts have been opened to commercial fishing at this time

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* The Andreaksky project will begin counting fish next week. Gisasa is on track to also begin counting next week.

*DFO Input:* Border passage estimates this year will be based on the Eagle sonar count. However, mark-recapture studies will continue, but not be used for escapement estimates.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

The majority of the question period centered on the timing of the run. Given that the run appears to be a few days late, the question was asked if we were even at the quarter point yet, and when the mid point should be. ADF&G responded that the quarter point should be sometime between June 17 and June 19, with the midpoint coming around June 20-23.

Looking at the number of fish that have been counted to date, a question was asked if there was a worry about having to cut back on the subsistence harvest. ADF&G allayed those worries by explaining that given that we haven't seen Pilot Station sonar numbers yet, it is much too early to even begin thinking about harvest restrictions. The comment was made that close to the quarter point it seems like there are less fish than there should be, and people are just concerned about what might or might not be done. An additional question was asked about when there might be a commercial opener. ADF&G explained that they were waiting till near midpoint of the run to make any decisions on a commercial opener, and that they are still looking at a possible directed chum opener but there is not enough information yet.

A final question was asked about how the Pilot Station sonar works and how many hours per day it is operating. ADF&G answered that it ran 3 times per day, on both banks, for 3 hour shifts. However, expansion factors are taken into consideration so the estimates are for 24 hour periods.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #4 – June 24, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Hooper Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Mt. Village, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Allakaket, Alatna, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, the Rapids, Rampart, Old Minto, Nenana, Stevens Village, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Venetie, Eagle, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	NPS
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Huslia, Galena	TCC, AVCP
Marshall Fish Processor, Interior Alaska Fish Processor	Kaltag Fisheries, Boreal Fish

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence fishers along the coast and lower Yukon River generally have more than 50% of their needs met in terms of king salmon. Fishing efforts are the same or higher than last year. King salmon are of good quality, bright, and they are getting bigger as the run progresses. Chum fishing has begun. Pink salmon have begun to show up earlier than normal. Fishing in the G.A.S.H region is slower than last year with more effort. Fish seem to be of poorer quality and are small. Chums are beginning to show up. The water is starting to drop with little or no debris. From Kaltag to Rampart they are beginning to catch more fish, mostly smallish males, but the catch rate is poor compared to last year. The Tanana & Koyukuk Rivers, as well as the Yukon Flats to the upper river, have seen no fish yet and high water.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* Catch rates at LYTF began to increase slightly on June 22, though they are still below average for this date. The Pilot Station sonar passage estimate for kings through June 24 is approximately half of the average. The first pulse of summer chum was detected on June 19 and catches remain high. The estimate for summer chum through June 23 is below the average for this date.

All indicators currently point to a weak Chinook salmon run. The first pulse of kings yielded a lower than expected estimate of fish at Pilot Station sonar of approximately 10,000 fish. The projected total run passing Pilot could be as low as 80,000 fish. The projected run abundance will not support subsistence harvests and meet escapement goals in Alaska and Canada. In an effort to conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing periods are being reduced and gear restrictions are being implemented chronologically upriver. These restrictions are being designed to allow subsistence fishing opportunity on the first pulse of kings consistent with the migratory timing as the run progresses.

It is anticipated that summer chum passage at Pilot Station will increase significantly in the next few days. Due to the limited amount of assessment information available, it is difficult to estimate the run abundance for summer chum salmon. The run appears to be 1-2 days late.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* USFWS evaluated limiting Chinook salmon fishing to federally qualified users on federal public waters, but decided not activate this restriction at this time since the conservation gains would be minimal due to low numbers of non-rural fishermen fishing in federal waters and this action could

potentially eliminate a possible directed chum fishery. USFWS welcomes comments on how to accomplish their goals of getting fish to the spawning grounds and getting fish to people. Also, USFWS noted that they have been contacted regarding limiting customary trade this season. They shared that such requests must be made directly to the Federal Subsistence Board because this does not fall under the delegated inseason manager's authority.

*DFO Input:* If the U.S. subsistence harvest is reduced to 50% of the average, the total spawning escapement to U.S. and Canadian tributaries could range from 50,000-55,000 fish. With a run composed of 50% Canadian-origin fish, the run into Canada would then fall within the 25,000-28,000 fish range. The 2008 Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) for Canada is 45,000 fish on the spawning grounds – approximately 30% higher the number of spawning fish that made it to spawning areas in 2007. Many Canadian aboriginal fishers were not able to meet their needs in 2007.

The information at hand suggests that the Chinook salmon run into Canada will be in the Yellow Management Zone. Within this zone, the management response will likely involve the closure of the commercial, domestic and recreational fisheries and potential restrictions to First Nations fisheries. DFO had a teleconference with a number of First Nations yesterday to inform them of the developing concern.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

The first round of questioning began with asking USFWS if they have looked at all possible programs they could administer given the small number of fish likely to cross the border, and emphasizing that every action should be considered to ensure sufficient spawning numbers. USFWS responded that the number of fish reaching the spawning grounds will be lower than they would like, and that throughout the drainage there will be difficulties meeting escapement goals. Clarification was asked on why the Marshall test data is showing the run to be average. ADF&G explained that the Marshall fishery is a better run timing tool than abundance tool. There is a short history of data and variations between years. Another question posed was whether a second pulse of kings had been detected. ADF&G responded in the affirmative, saying the pulse appeared a little bigger. The current age composition through June 22 suggests over half of the fish are 5 year olds.

Questions moved to the possibility of a commercial opener. ADF&G responded that a directed Chinook fishery is highly unlikely, but they will look at a directed summer chum fishery sometime in early July depending on how weak the run is and what it does. One caller asked if the sport fishery in the U.S. would close. ADF&G Sport Fish Division staff responded that the sportfish harvest is very small and is mostly concentrated in the Tanana drainage. On the Yukon, the daily bag limit has been reduced from 3 fish to 1 fish which primarily affects the Andreafsky and Anvik Rivers. They will hold off on restricting the Tanana drainage until the run reaches that area.

There were several comments from the fishermen about subsistence restrictions. Many do not want restrictions or feel they wouldn't be necessary as high gas prices will naturally reduce effort. It was mentioned that some elders believe that the run will be late this year. ADF&G requested that teleconference participants, especially upriver, provide comments and suggestions for how best to implement restrictions. Fishers responded that gear restrictions are not favored as most upriver fishermen do not have different sized nets; time restrictions would be better. Some upriver fishermen felt it was premature to be restricting their fishing when they have not even begun fishing but lower river fishermen are approaching the half-way mark in their needs.

There was some discussion about possible disaster relief if the run is as poor as predicted. ADF&G responded that while they don't think there will be a surplus, there are still fish coming in and they are taking actions now because it is unlikely to get a lot of fish. However, disaster declarations would come after the season is over. ADF&G also noted that the last disaster declaration happened because of no commercial fishery and people talking to their legislators and the governor.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #5 – July 1, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Hooper Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, Mt. Village, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, the Rapids, Rampart, Nenana, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Old Crow, Dawson, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	DFO
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Beaver, Galena	TCC
Interior Alaska Fish Processor	Kaltag Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence fishers along the coast and lower Yukon River generally have more than 70% of their subsistence needs met. Chum fishing is under way in the lower river with reports of decent runs. Fishing in the G.A.S.H region up to Ruby is reported as slow, with more effort compared to last year. Fishermen are spending more hours drifting with only a few fish per drift. No one in this area is close to meeting their subsistence needs. The Koyukuk & Tanana Rivers are beginning to catch chums and kings. The Yukon Flats and upper Yukon River are ready and waiting to fish.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The LYTF has identified a second and third pulse of Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River, though Chinook numbers are still below average for this date. The beginning of a second pulse of summer chum was detected on June 24 with high catches for several days. The Pilot Station sonar passage for Chinook salmon through June 30 is 80,000 which is still below average for this date.

The third pulse of Chinook salmon appears to be the strongest to date with catches in excess of 170 fish for three consecutive days. The age composition was 47% 5 year olds and 49% 6 year olds. The projected run is predicted to be 110,000-120,000 thousand Chinook salmon. The summer chum passage has been steadily increasing at Pilot Station sonar. There have been an estimated 917,000 chum past the sonar. The projection is 1.4 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon past Pilot Station.

In an effort to conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing period reductions will continue to be implemented chronologically upriver to protect the third pulse. As the third pulse exits the lower river districts, the regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule will return to the two 36 hour periods per week. At that time, it is expected that 75% of the Chinook salmon run would have passed.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* USFWS has conservation concerns. There have been 4 days of good Chinook passage and it is encouraging to see the projected run size increasing, but the higher estimate is still low. A projected run size of 120,000 fish past Pilot Station will not provide for traditional subsistence harvests and US and Canadian escapement goals. The reduction in fishing time and gear is still necessary and appropriate to ensure enough fish reach their spawning grounds.

*DFO Input:* It is encouraging that the run has picked up, but it is still unlikely that 45,000 fish will make it to Canadian spawning grounds. It is anticipated that the Chinook salmon run into Canada will be in the Yellow Management Zone. Within this zone, the management response will likely involve the closure of the commercial and domestic fisheries and non-retention in the recreational fishery. Potential restrictions may occur within First Nation Fisheries. The first priority is to meet conservation objectives and the second is to meet the needs of First Nations fisheries.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

The first round of comments began with ADF&G requesting input and suggestions from teleconference participants on how to apply restrictions in Y-4 District and above. The first response was that the restriction on hours adversely affects fishers because they won't be able to catch enough fish. Another caller mentioned that management should hold off on restrictions for at least 2 more fishing periods because many people have not met their subsistence needs, while lower river fishermen have all or most of their needs met. The question was raised from last week about the possibility of using silver salmon gear if there are mesh restrictions. ADF&G is concerned with mesh restrictions as everyone may not have smaller mesh, which is why they are also considering reducing fishing periods further and soliciting input about mesh size restrictions. They also reminded everyone that the goal behind these restrictions is to try and protect the fish.

Other fishermen from Anvik had concerns about lower river fishermen coming into their fishing areas with larger nets and suggested that ADF&G should shorten gear length to 150 feet. A fisherman from Tanana mentioned that if net fishermen go to reduced gear they will only catch lots of chums, which are not even good for dog food up there. The same fisherman mentioned that people with fish wheels in the area will do better than net fishermen and perhaps could share if the wheels could run for 24 hours. Another fisherman suggested that if ADF&G is trying to conserve salmon then mesh size should be reduced. He mentioned that it is not fair to fish on reduced numbers and they should be able to fish the 2nd and 3rd pulses. A fisherman from the lower river suggested that if management is going to be in a conservation mode then there should be restrictions up and down the river, including on the sport fishers. ADF&G responded that the sport fishery division is looking at reducing the bag limit from 3 to 1 fish per day, and that they still have time to decide on restrictions for the Tanana River.

Another discussion began with the question of whether the 2nd pulse was going to the Tanana River or up the Yukon River. ADF&G responded that 21% is bound for the Tanana River. Discussion moved to the question of a Tier 1 fishery, which there is in District 5. Board of Fish would have to designate any area as a Tier 2, which would further restrict fishing.

ADF&G mentioned that they are focused on summer chum and looking at a commercial chum fishery if there is a surplus available. The majority of the rest of the call pertained to a discussion of the details of ADF&G's test fisheries.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #6 – July 8, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Alakanuk, Emmonak, St. Marys, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Nulato, Huslia, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, the Rapids, Rampart, Old Minto, Nenana, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Old Crow, Dawson, Mayo, Pelly Crossing

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	DFO
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ft. Yukon	TCC, NPS
Interior Alaska Fish Processor	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Many subsistence fishers along the lower Yukon River have met their subsistence needs. Chums are abundant and the Chinook still being caught appear to be large and of good color. Fishing in the G.A.S.H region up to Rampart has been slow, with generally more effort expended for less fish. Although the last opener was good, fishers are still concerned with not reaching their subsistence needs. The Koyukuk River reports no kings and some summer chums, but not enough. Fishers from the Tanana River and through the Yukon Flats report that they are beginning to catch kings, of good color and good shape. Kings were caught in Old Crow, but have yet to show up elsewhere on the Canadian portion of the Yukon.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The Chinook salmon passage estimates increased as the third pulse passed the Pilot Station sonar, although the overall run remains weak. The projection is for approximately 130,000 Chinook salmon passed Pilot Station. There will be fishing period reductions implemented in the upper river districts to protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulse. The age composition of Chinook salmon through July 3 was 45% 5 year olds and 51% 6 year olds, with females constituting 44% of the sample.

Summer chum salmon continue to enter the Yukon River with a passage estimate of 1.4 million past the Pilot Station Sonar as of July 7<sup>th</sup>, and a total estimated projection of approximately 1.7 million summer chum salmon. This passage level will be enough to meet escapement goals, subsistence needs, and allow for a directed summer chum commercial fishery.

There is currently a market for summer chum salmon in Districts Y-1, Y-2 and Subdistrict 4-A. Based on the current abundance of summer chum, ADF&G initiated commercial fishing periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gill nets on July 2. In an effort to reduce harvest of Chinook salmon, ADF&G attempted to have the open periods when king abundance is low. In addition, Y-4 commercial fishers have volunteered to man fish wheels to release kings back into the water.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* USFWS is glad to see an improved Chinook run projection. There will be no gear restrictions implemented along the upper river but fishing time will decrease in order to ensure enough kings are able to get to the spawning grounds. USFWS believes ADF&G has done a good job with management of the commercial chum openers, waiting until most of the Chinook have passed and timing

the openings for low Chinook abundance. Additionally, the majority of kings at the tail end of the run are of Alaska origin.

*DFO Input:* Some kings have crossed the border and are up the Klondike River and at Old Crow, although the run appears to be 5-6 days late. DFO is encouraged by the strength of the 3<sup>rd</sup> pulse, especially as the DNA information shows that there are Canadian origin fish in the pulse. However, it is anticipated that the run into Canada will be in the Yellow Management Zone. Within this zone, the management response will likely involve the closure of the commercial and domestic fisheries and non-retention in the recreational fishery. DFO is in consultation with the First Nations about potential restrictions on those fisheries and will use Eagle Sonar data to help with inseason management.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Questions on restrictions started the discussion. Fishermen from Y-4 asked if ADF&G could lift time restrictions on the last period to a 48 hour period instead of two 24 hour periods so they have a chance to meet at least half of their subsistence needs. ADF&G responded that they understand it is difficult this year and unfortunately people may not meet their subsistence needs. The point of these restrictions is to let the fish go by and get to their spawning grounds and Canada; however ADF&G did remove gear restrictions because upriver fishermen expressed concern over them. Fishermen from Rampart and a legislative staffer on behalf of Rampart fishermen expressed similar concern wondering why there can't be windows of 48 hour periods instead of two 24 hour periods. ADF&G responded that the difference between a 48 hour period and two 24 hour periods is the timing of the run. With this management scheme, fishermen will still be able to fish a portion of the pulse while also letting fish go by in between periods. They are continuously monitoring and assessing the run and restrictions may change.

Other fishermen had a question on where the chums are. ADF&G replied that there are a predicted 1.7 million chums with the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse of them past Ruby and the 2<sup>nd</sup> pulse past Kaltag. A fisherman from Anvik wanted to know what the Anvik River run was like. ADF&G responded that there were 190,000 chums through July 7<sup>th</sup>, which is below average but the chums should be picking up.

Another discussion began with questions about disaster declarations and, in particular, how a declaration can happen and when. The response was that a disaster declaration must come from the Governor and fishermen should write to her and to their representatives. TCC volunteered help to anyone interested in pursuing this, but ADF&G also advised that the run is late and fish are still coming.

Questions ended with how large the most recent spike of fish might be and if anyone is still catching fish along the coast. ADF&G responded that there was a bump of kings on July 6<sup>th</sup> which should hit Pilot Station by July 9<sup>th</sup>. More will be known about its size then. ADF&G has heard that fishermen are still catching fish along the coast.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #7 – July 15, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Hooper Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Anvik, Nulato, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, The Rapids, Rampart, Nenana, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Galena, Eagle	DFO
USFWS – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Eagle	NPS
Interior Alaska Fish Processors	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Most lower river fishers are 75-100% done with their subsistence harvests and have stopped fishing. Those fishers not done will target fall chum. Harvested fish were of firm flesh and good color.

In the G.A.S.H. region, fishers are at about 15% of their harvest level. Water conditions are not great for fishing, but people are still targeting kings and chums. The kings have been in poorer condition, but the chums are still looking good.

The Nulato/Galena/Ruby area catch rates have generally been poor. Some fishermen have stopped fishing even though they have not met their harvest goals. Other fishers are still targeting kings and chums and are waiting for the fall run. The fish that have been caught have been in good condition.

Along the Koyukuk River, fishers are about 15% done with their harvests and are targeting kings and chums. Some of the chums have been in poor condition. Through the upper river and in the Tanana River, fishers are experiencing high or rising water levels and increasing levels of debris. Catch has been sporadic in areas, but the fish have been medium to large, with good color and in good shape. The Canadian reaches of the river are reporting high water, some debris and low fishing effort so far.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The Chinook salmon run is nearly complete in the lower river. The projected first quarter point, midpoint, and third quarter point are June 18 (3 days late), June 26 (6 days late), and June 29 (3 days late), respectively. At Pilot Station sonar, it is expected that 134,000 Chinook will pass. The age composition of Chinook from the set net test fishery was 45% age-5 and 51% age-6.

The Tanana River king run has been stronger than anticipated, although still below average. The second pulse of salmon should reach Nenana in the next day or so.

The Pilot Station passage estimate through July 14 is approximately 1.8 million summer chum, with a total estimated projection of 1.86 million. This passage level is enough to meet escapement goals, subsistence needs, and allow for a directed summer chum commercial fishery.

Through July 14, ADF&G has scheduled six commercial fishing periods in Y-1 and five in Y-2. The preliminary harvest during these periods through July 14 is 4,200 kings and 114,200 chums. Y-4A had a 24 hour commercial period opened on July 9, future periods will be implemented concurrently with subsistence fishing periods. In an effort to reduce Chinook and male chum harvest, Y-4 commercial fishers have volunteered to man fish wheels and release fish back into the water.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* The lower river will be moving to fall season subsistence management on July 16. Subsistence salmon fishing in the lower river districts will be open 7 days a week, with restrictions before, during, and after commercial fishing. The middle Yukon has seen the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses pass by during reduced subsistence fishing and the subsistence fishing time is being liberalized. The upper Yukon (District 5) is still having the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses migrate past and are currently on reduced subsistence fishing time. The early counts from Eagle sonar are better than anticipated based on the early passage numbers from Pilot Station. USFWS is hopeful that because of the restricted subsistence in both Alaska and Canada that the goal of 45,000 Chinook salmon to Canadian spawning areas will be reached.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Salmon Outlook:* Using the summer chum run as an indicator, it is likely that the preseason projection of 1 million fall chum will be accurate. A run of this size should provide for escapement and subsistence uses with a surplus for commercial harvest. Managers will attempt to work with buyers in the lower river to schedule commercial fishing periods, possibly later this week in the Y-1 District. The fall season test fisheries will begin at Emmonak on July 16 and at Mountain Village on July 17. On July 19, Pilot Station sonar will transition to reporting all chum as fall chum.

*DFO Input:* Management actions taken by Canada to date include initiating non-retention of Chinook salmon (kings) in the sport fishery, closing the area near Tatchun Creek where most sport fishing occurs, and closing the commercial and domestic fisheries. DFO has discussed run strength with the First Nations, which are implementing management actions to reduce their harvest by 50%. DFO is concerned that counts at the Eagle Sonar are below average. They are hoping for late run strength and more favorable ratios of females to males than they are currently seeing. The Eagle sonar information will be used to adjust inseason management actions.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

At the suggestion of a participant, YR DFA has agreed to post an optional general form for people to follow when giving their teleconference reports on the YR DFA website, yukonsalmon.org

Clarification was requested on whether there was a fall season commercial opening in Y-1 later this week and ADF&G responded that they are considering it but are waiting to see. Another participant asked about the existence of a fourth pulse and was informed that one was not seen this year.

Concerns were raised from Rampart about their difficulty in meeting their needs this year. With high water they haven't been able to fish and would like to see restrictions lifted or changed to allow 5 straight days of fishing. The request was also made that Rampart be separate from the Rapids in terms of management decisions. ADF&G responded that unfortunately, the king run is weak and the main goal right now is to protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses. While there is nothing to be done at the moment, ADF&G would consider the comments and concerns.

The issue of not obeying fishing regulations was brought up with multiple stories of fishermen fishing during closed periods and meeting much of their harvest goals, while those abiding by the regulations have not. ADF&G was not able to discuss details, but they assured everyone on the call that they do receive many enforcement issues, USFWS is also aware of them, and some are being investigated. Nothing happens overnight, but concerned fishermen brought up the point that these types of violations have been going on for years and are inherently unfair. The suggestion was made that enforcement take part in the teleconference and perhaps give a report.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #8 – July 22, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Emmonak, Marshall, Holy Cross, Anvik, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, the Rapids, Rampart, Manley, Ft. Yukon, Circle, Eagle, Old Crow, Mayo, Pelly Crossing

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	DFO
USFWS –Fairbanks, Anchorage	Boreal Fisheries, Interior Fish

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence fishers along the lower river are done fishing for kings and are attempting to target fall chum. From the G.A.S.H region up to Rampart, fishers have 40-50% of their subsistence needs met, and are reporting that they are done fishing for kings and are hoping for a strong run of fall chum and coho. Along the Koyukuk River subsistence fishermen are reporting less than 10% of their king harvest needs have been met. The kings being caught are reported as small but healthy. Recent high water conditions have caused fishermen to pull in their nets. The water levels at the Tanana River are high with low debris. Fishermen are catching chums and the quality is good. No one is fishing for kings. From the Yukon Flats to the upper river fishermen are reporting high water levels and heavy debris load, causing fishermen to stop fishing. Some have yet to start fishing; others are from 10-75% done with their harvest needs. The quality of the fish seems to be good with few females. Across the border, the first fish hit Pelly Crossing on July 15, and fishing has been sporadic elsewhere with few fish and high water with debris.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The Chinook salmon run has tapered off in the lower river. The projection for total Chinook salmon past Pilot Station sonar is approximately 133,000 fish. The Eagle sonar cumulative passage estimate through July 21 is 10,000 Chinook, which is below the 3-year average, but the second pulse of fish should be on its way. The Tanana River Chinook run has been stronger than anticipated from the first pulse, but still below average. Overall, most indicators suggest that the 2008 Chinook run is below average and not as strong as the 2007 run.

The Pilot Station passage estimate for summer chum through July 18 is 1,858,110, well above the expected number of 1,263,000 fish. Pilot Station transitioned from summer season to fall season on July 19.

In an effort to conserve Chinook salmon, there have been no directed Chinook commercial fishing periods in the lower or upper river districts. Additionally, reduced subsistence salmon fishing periods were implemented in the lower and upper river for the 2008 season. At this time, Subdistrict 5-D is the last to be on reduced subsistence salmon fishing periods, and as the third pulse exits, the period reductions will be relaxed.

Commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 4-A have been opened to target summer chum, and it is anticipated that Y-6 commercial periods to target summer chum will begin this weekend.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* USFWS reiterated that the king run is poorer than last year and that escapement numbers are at the low end of the objectives. Eagle Sonar will let us know how we do at passage to Canada. They are concerned about the numbers of females getting to the spawning grounds.

*DFO Input:* Water conditions are very high in Canadian tributaries and the main stem. The test wheels have caught an above average number of Chinook salmon fish at this point. The average size of the Chinook salmon fish is small and river conditions are high – favorable conditions for the fish wheels. The 8.5 mesh test fishery is having problems due to high water conditions. The Blind Creek weir is not in place yet. The Big Salmon Sonar is in operation, but with the high water it is only running 18 hours a day.

DFO has made no adjustments to their fisheries since last week. The commercial and domestic fisheries are closed, and there is non-retention of Chinook salmon in the sport fishery. Tatchun Creek and the Yukon River near Tatchun Creek confluence is closed to all angling. First Nations are implementing management measures to reduce their harvest by 50%. While the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses should be stronger, DFO is still concerned with the low Eagle sonar count. They will make a projection of the total number of Chinook salmon expected to cross the border by Wednesday morning. Available information suggests that the run will fall short of the spawning escapement goals.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* Based on the fall chum preseason projection and the current appraisal of the summer chum run performance, the fall season will be managed initially as though the fall chum run size will be near the low end of the projection range of 890,00. A run of this size should be sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence uses with an expected surplus for commercial harvest. At this time, no pulses of fall chum have entered the mouth of the Yukon. Total passage estimate at Pilot Station through July 20 is 18,500 fall chum.

Because fall chum are difficult to predict, commercial periods in District Y-1 and Y-2 have been staggered with the intent of spreading harvest and increasing the chances that a portion of an unexpected pulse would be harvested. However, as experienced in previous years during this transition time period, catches can be exceptionally low.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Comments began with a commercial fisherman from the coast mentioning that there have been no fish during the commercial periods and suggested an emergency opening for when there are fish passing through. ADF&G responded that right now they don't expect too many fish and that it's also difficult to predict what the tide will do in terms of bringing fish in. Once the fish do start moving, ADF&G will tailor the fishing periods better. There was a suggestion from another fisherman that all the commercial fishermen should get together for an emergency meeting with ADF&G to find out where the fish are.

Another fisherman asked for clarification from Ruby fishermen of "silver salmon" and was told it refers to fall chum. There was a question on curtailments in the sports fishery. The response was that restrictions have changed from a daily bag limit of 3 to 1. A closing question was from a fisherman who was wondering where the humpies are coming from. The response was that ADF&G is not sure, but that they are seeing quite a few and will know more post-season.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #9 – July 29, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Hooper Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Mt. Village, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Koyukuk, Huslia, Galena, the Rapids, Rampart, Fairbanks, Ft. Yukon Circle, Eagle

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	DFO
USFWS –Fairbanks	Interior Fish

**Subsistence Reports:**

Fishing along the coast and lower river has slowed down with most fishers waiting to target fall chum. Water levels are rising in the G.A.S.H region up to Koyukuk and little fishing activity is occurring. Along the Koyukuk River, subsistence fishermen are reporting slow fishing and high water levels. Most fishers are waiting to target silvers. Subsistence fishermen from Galena as far as Rampart are reporting high water levels, and are 25-60% finished with their harvest needs. The water levels at the Tanana River are high with a forecasted flood, causing fishermen to pull their nets and wheels. From the Yukon Flats fishermen are reporting lower water levels and debris since last week. Some fishermen are 75-100% done with their harvest, while others are finding it difficult to meet their needs. Fish quality is good.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The 2008 Chinook salmon run has come to a close in the lower river. Most indicators suggest the run is below average and not as strong as the 2007 run.

In an effort to conserve king salmon, there have been no directed Chinook salmon commercial fishing periods for the 2008 season. Subsistence salmon fishing period reductions have been implemented in the main stem Yukon to protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulse in an effort to meet escapement goals. Based on lower than anticipated Eagle sonar counts, additional reductions are being considered in Subdistrict 5-D.

The summer chum run appears to be 3 days later than average. The Pilot Station passage estimate through July 18 is 1.8 million, well above the average for the season. This passage level is enough to meet escapement goals, subsistence needs, and allow for a directed summer chum commercial fishery. Commercial fishing periods are being implemented concurrently with subsistence fishing periods.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* Time reductions and gear restrictions have been implemented in Alaska and Canada has reduced their harvest goals in an effort to get enough fish to their spawning grounds. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses past Eagle seem to be smaller than anticipated, which is disappointing in that escapement goals to Canada may not be reached and that these low numbers make it very hard on subsistence fishermen.

*DFO Input:* The DFO projection of the Eagle sonar count for the entire season is between 30,000 and 35,000 fish, placing the run in the Yellow Management Zone. It appears that the 2008 spawning escapement goal will not be achieved. DFO believes that the third pulse of fish is currently at Eagle, although it is difficult to determine exactly where the run is within third pulse. There has been 1,031 fish caught in the fish wheel, slightly below the average. High water conditions probably inflated the fish

wheel catch. DFO is concerned that the fish wheel catch is only 17% female. There is also a concern regarding the potential size of Whitehorse Rapids hatchery return since only 2 of 1,031 fish caught in the wheels were from the hatchery. High water levels are causing problems for some of the assessment projects (Blind Creek weir and Big Salmon sonar) and curtailing some aboriginal fishing activity.

DFO has made no adjustments to their fisheries for the last two weeks. The commercial and domestic fisheries are closed, and there is non-retention of Chinook salmon in the sport fishery. Tatchun Creek and the Yukon River near Tatchun Creek confluence is closed to all angling. First Nations are implementing management measures to reduce their harvest by 50%. Someone from the department is traveling to a number of communities this week to collect aboriginal catch information.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* At this time no significant pulses of fall chum salmon have been detected entering the Yukon River. The Pilot Station Sonar cumulative passage estimate through July 27 is 73,000 fish. It is difficult to project run strength before the first quarter point, but early indications are that the run may be smaller than previously projected. Early season expectations are for a run size near or below the low end of the projection range, which should still be sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence uses with a surplus available for commercial harvest.

As the run progresses, inseason assessment projects will be given greater consideration for management. Subsistence fishing remains open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in Districts 1, 2, and 3 except for closures 12 hours before, during, and until 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishing further upriver will continue on the current schedule until fall chum reach those sections of the river.

Because fall chum pulses are difficult to predict, commercial periods in Districts Y-1 and Y-2 have been staggered with the intent of spreading the harvest. However, similar to previous years, catches can be exceptionally low during this early season period. This week the first bump of fish will be watched as it passes Pilot Station to judge its size. Currently it appears that unless fall chum start coming in stronger, a break from commercial fishing may be needed next week.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

The first question was directed to DFO and asked what percentage of hatchery fish return each year. DFO responded that on average about 70% of the returning fish are hatchery origin. Further clarification was requested about reporting of hatchery fish caught in the lower river commercial fishery. Hatchery fish caught in the commercial fishery are reported to DFO. Some fishermen expressed concern that the fishing public should be more concerned about escapement goals to Canada because that is the future salmon run.

Discussion moved to commercial fishing, with one fisherman expressing disappointment that fall chum commercial periods happened before it was clear how the run was developing. Since the run currently doesn't look as strong as was thought, why not wait on commercial periods until it's known how strong the run will be. ADF&G answered that the run may start slow and then pick up and that the commercial periods are implemented in such a way so as to spread the harvest out. Another fisherman wondered if biologists were concerned about the effects of high water in the Tanana on spawning success. ADF&G responded that while high water and temperatures can stress fish, no study has looked specifically at that question. Additionally, past high water events haven't led to catastrophically low returns, but high water certainly doesn't help. Another question was asked about what happens to the Chinook taken during chum commercial periods. ADF&G responded that they sample as many as they can for age, sex, length, and take genetic samples for area of origin. This information is available to the public.

A comment was offered that there are no existing structures for local management but that local input and greater co-management should be encouraged. A final comment was offered that management should implement strategies to better protect the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse of fish.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #10 – August 5, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** St. Marys, Marshall, Holy Cross, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Galena, Ruby, the Rapids, Old Minto, Nenana, Ft. Yukon, Circle, Eagle, Old Crow, Whitehorse, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Pilot Station, Eagle	TCC,
USFWS –Fairbanks	Interior Fish, Kwikpak Fisheries
DFO	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence fishers along the lower river to the G.A.S.H. region have started to target fall chum that appear to be nice, big, and bright with a few silvers also being caught. The subsistence fishers from Nulato to Ruby are not fishing at this time due to high water conditions and drift. Along the Koyukuk River subsistence fishermen are reporting rising water levels and some healthy big males. Most fishers are waiting to target silvers. Subsistence fishermen from the Rapids as far as Eagle are reporting that water levels are dropping. While some fishermen have met 100% of their subsistence needs, others have met 0% and some have stopped fishing because of poor catches coupled with high water, lots of drift and high gas prices. Fishers with dogs to feed are concerned they will not have enough fish for winter feed. The water levels at the Tanana River are still high but showing signs of dropping, and all but 1 fish wheel was ruined during the recent flood. Canadian fishers are catching Chinooks, but have voluntarily reduced their harvest levels in order to let fish get to spawning grounds.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The summer salmon fishery is winding down. The Eagle sonar cumulative passage estimate through August 4 is 30,000 Chinook which is below the 3-year average of 59,000 for this date. The majority of Chinook salmon has passed Subdistrict 5-D, so the subsistence salmon fishing schedule will return to a 7 days per week fishing schedule. No summer chum commercial fishing has taken place in District 6 since July 30 due to high water and flooding.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* The season for summer chum and Chinook is basically over. Subdistrict 5-D went off of subsistence fishing restrictions Monday evening and was the last district to do so. High water levels are reducing fishing effort in the upper river. USFWS is now just watching the summer chum and Chinook passage at the Eagle Sonar. The Chandalar sonar is in place and preparing to count fall chum.

*DFO Input:* Based on counts at the Eagle sonar, DFO is projecting a total sonar count of approximately 37,000 Chinook salmon. They believe that the peak of the 3<sup>rd</sup> pulse of Chinook has passed the sonar and daily counts are expected to decline over the next few days. There have been 1,586 fish caught in the test fish wheels, which is above average. High water levels probably inflated the fish wheel catch. The Blind Creek weir was having problems with high water levels and as of August 4 had counted only 19 fish, well below the average of 400 fish for that date. The Big Salmon sonar count is below average but should see increased counts over the next few days as the third pulse migrates past. The Whitehorse Fishway has

counted 0 fish through the facility as of Monday although some salmon have been seen below the fishway. Average return to date is 55 fish. Aerial surveys are planned for mid-August.

DFO has made no recent adjustments to fisheries management. The commercial and domestic fisheries are closed, and there is non-retention of Chinook salmon in the sport fishery. Tatchun Creek and the Yukon River near Tatchun Creek confluence is closed to all angling. First Nations are implementing management measures to reduce their harvest by 50%.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* Although still early in the season, fall chum appear to be on track for a run size of 500,000-700,000 fish, less than the preseason projection but near average. It should be sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence usage with a surplus available for commercial harvest. The first two pulses of fall chum entered the river in quick succession this past week. The first small pulse entered the river on July 27, with a Pilot Station sonar passage estimation of 37,000 fall chum. The second pulse entered the river on July 30, with a sonar passage estimate to be approximately 75,000 fish. The Pilot Station Sonar cumulative passage estimate for fall chum through August 4 is approximately 232,000 which is below the average of 241,000 fish.

Based on the current abundance of fall chum and the commercial harvest level, commercial periods are being delayed in order to allow additional salmon to pass through the lower river districts. Future periods will be scheduled as warranted dependent upon the projected surplus above a run size of 600,000.

The number of coho salmon has been increasing. Usually the coho run starts building around August 8 and the expectation is for a similar run to last year.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Fall chum questions and discussions dominated this portion of the call. The first question of the session was a clarification of where the first pulse of fall chum were. ADF&G responded that the bulk of the pulse is around Anvik but a few front runners were up at the Rapids. Another fisherman asked when ADF&G predicted the fish would be up the Koyukuk. They responded the pulse should reach the Koyukuk around the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, and be up around Huslia maybe around the 11<sup>th</sup>. Another fisherman asked how ADF&G would classify the fall run so far in overall total number? ADF&G answered that the run is on track for average. Another question was whether ADF&G is taking into account the late run timing in their projections. The response was that so far the pulses appear to be arriving in a normal period but they will continue monitoring the run.

Discussion turned to pink salmon with a comment that there were so many pinks migrating upriver that they were interfering with fishermen's nets. In contrast, a fisherman from Husli reported that there were no pinks going up the Koyukuk and speculated that they might be heading up the Gisasa, which ADF&G confirmed. Another question concerned the coho run timing and when they tend to start showing up. ADF&G responded that the cohos usually start picking up on August 8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>.

There was a question of whether staff from the Andreasfky weir join the teleconference. USFWS answered that Andreasfky does not participate on the weekly teleconferences and has just wrapped up counting for the season. Total counts from the weir (shared by ADF&G), as of July 30, were as follows: 4,149 Chinooks, 50,000 summer chum, and 194,000 pink salmon. Since high water levels are reducing fishing effort, a fisherman wanted to know if more fish were getting to their spawning grounds. ADF&G thought there would be plenty of summer chum up at the spawning grounds and less Chinook salmon, but that the spawning success of those fish is unpredictable and high water levels play a role in spawning success.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #11 – August 12, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Emmonak, St. Mary’s, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Galena, the Rapids, Fairbanks, Ft. Yukon, Circle, Eagle, Old Crow, Dawson, Mayo

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	TCC,
USFWS –Fairbanks	Interior Fish
DFO	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

There is very little subsistence activity occurring. Most fishers are either waiting for the fall chum and coho run or are unable to fish due to poor weather and river conditions. Generally, water levels are high but are dropping in many places. The fish that are being caught look to still be in great shape.

Fish are currently being harvested around Marshall and the G.A.S.H. region. Fall chum have been moving through the Koyukuk River and fishers in Huslia had been doing pretty well over the last few days. Fall chum have just begun arriving in small numbers at the Rapids. Circle fishers are still seeing some kings mixed with fall chum and silvers. Canadian fishers are largely done with Chinook fishing. They report the season as being terrible.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The 2008 Chinook and summer chum seasons are winding down. Most indicators suggest the Chinook run is below average and not as strong as the 2007 run. Cumulative estimated passage at the Eagle Sonar through August 10 is approximately 35,395 fish, below the 3-year average. Based on this estimated passage, it is anticipated that the escapement goal to Canada will not be met.

This winter, ADF&G will be working with fishers to discuss strategies to get more fish to the spawning grounds in the 2009 Chinook run.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*USFWS Input:* The fall chum commercial fishing periods during the early part of the season were allowed based upon a pre-season projection of 1 million fall chum. With the good run of summer chum, there was a reasonable expectation of a good fall chum run. While the run may still be good, management is holding off on more commercial fishing periods to ensure enough fish get upriver.

*DFO Input:* The Eagle Sonar has counted just shy of 36,000 fish, mostly Chinook, some chum. This is well below average. Test fish wheels have caught 1,661 Chinook as of August 11, which is above the 10-year average. High water levels probably inflated the fish wheel catch. Other assessment projects at the Blind Creek weir, the Big Salmon Sonar and the Whitehorse Fishway have all counted below average returns of Chinook. The numbers should all pick up as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pulses pass through.

Based upon DNA analysis of chum caught at Pilot Station, there appears to be a weak component of Canadian fish. As the transition to fall chum continues, the numbers of Canadian fish should increase.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* Fall chum entering the river have slowed down this week, while coho salmon are starting to arrive in small numbers. Calm weather at the coast may be holding salmon offshore and half the fall chum run probably has yet to enter the river, but to date approximately 303,600 fall chum and 17,000 coho have passed Pilot Station Sonar. The projected run size for fall chum is between 500,000 to 700,000 fish, although erratic pulses of fall chum could significantly increase or decrease the projection. The age structure of the run is starting out differently this year: while traditionally the 4 year olds dominate the run, this year it is 5 year olds. The lower than expected numbers of fish seen so far could be due to a weak 4 year old age component. Only the front runners of the coho salmon migration have arrived but the run is projected to be average to above average.

The first pulse of fall chum should be in the vicinity of the Rapids and Tanana River on August 12, while most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pulse should be near Kaltag. It is normal to have dramatic pulses of fall chum followed by slow periods as is currently happening. Because the Pilot Station Sonar is projecting that the total run size may be close to 600,000 fall chum, commercial fishing is being delayed in the lower river. As the coho run strengthens, additional commercial fishing opportunities in the lower river may appear. The department implemented the first commercial salmon period in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C on August 8 for 48 hours. Effort and harvest were low. Another 48 hour period begins on August 12. Subsistence fishing in these subdistricts is unaltered and will occur concurrently with the commercial period.

#### **Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Many of the comments were requests for clarification on ADF&G's and DFO's assessment numbers. One fisher wanted to know why there was a large discrepancy in fish numbers for the test fisheries at Big Eddy and Middle Mouth compared to the passage numbers at Pilot Station. ADF&G replied that there was a lag time between the assessment projects, so low numbers at the test fisheries wouldn't show at Pilot Station for 3 or so days. Additionally, the test fisheries do not measure abundance, rather they indicate whether the fish are increasing or decreasing, whereas the sonar does measure abundance. Another fisher wanted to know if the ADF&G test fisheries fished the tides or at standard times. ADF&G uses standard times, usually 8am and 8pm. A question was asked of DFO of whether there was a count on the Miner River, to which DFO responded that there had not been an assessment in recent years, even though it's a major producer of kings.

One fisher wanted to know what species were coming into the river and if the runs were on time or not. ADF&G responded that there are fall chum and the beginning of the coho run, both of which appear to be basically on time, perhaps a day or two late, although still too early to tell with the coho run. A Canadian fisher had concerns about meeting the escapement goals for fall chum due to the commercial fishery in the lower river and wanted to know what the escapement projection at the border was. DFO responded that as of August 5 there were approximately 76,000 Canadian fish at Pilot Station on their way, and that they expected the proportion of fall chum will go up over time. ADF&G noted that the escapement goal was 80,000 fish and that the commercial fishing has been curtailed and subsistence effort is currently low. Another fisherman expressed his concerns about being able to fish as a lower river commercial fisherman. The perspective was offered that people throughout the river have concerns this year, and there are many other factors affecting the salmon run to consider besides other Yukon River users.

Announcements were made at the end of the call by ADF&G and TCC. ADF&G let everyone know that they are conducting a radio-telemetry study that will tag fall chum with radio tags. ADF&G would like fishermen's help in returning these tags when found. TCC announced they would be convening a river wide transboundary meeting with Canadians concerning the future of fishing on the Yukon River from a tribal/village perspective. The meeting will happen in early November in Fairbanks.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #12 – August 19, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Emmonak, St. Mary’s, Marshall, Holy Cross, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Galena, Tanana, The Rapids, Rampart, Nenana, Circle, Eagle, Old Crow, Teslin

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Anchorage, Fairbanks	DFO
USFWS –Fairbanks	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Water levels are normal-to-low along most of the river, with the exception of The Rapids and Rampart where levels are high. Fishers report good fall chum catches on the mainstem of the Yukon from Tanana down to Marshall. Generally speaking, nobody is fishing on the Koyukuk or Tanana Rivers. In the upper river, including Canada, king salmon fishing is winding down and people are waiting for fall chum.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The cumulative total estimate past the Pilot Station sonar through August 18 is 423,000 fall chum, which is below the average passage of 518,000 for this date. At this time, the current run projection ranges between 500,000 and 600,000 fall chum passing through the lower river fishery. The coho salmon run is building and the cumulative total estimate past the Pilot Station sonar through August 18 is 52,000 fish. At this time, the coho run appears to be on track for an average run.

Weather along the coast has been calm for several days, which may be causing salmon to hold offshore. The first small pulse of fall chum is expected to be in the vicinity of Stevens Village, the second pulse near Tanana, and the third near Russian Mission. Run timing is close to normal.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*DFO Input:* Through analysis of several U.S. and Canadian assessment projects, DFO has determined that the Chinook salmon run is well below average this year in terms of spawning escapement into Canada. Officials are hoping for late run strength to bolster the low numbers of returning spawners.

DFO estimates that 631,500 fall chum will pass the Pilot Station sonar. Genetic analysis that will be performed this week should provide further insight into implications of this number for Canadian fisheries.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* The fall chum run is expected to be adequate for escapement needs and subsistence uses, therefore no subsistence restrictions are anticipated. However, the fall chum run is not large enough to continue a directed fall chum commercial fishery and the coho run has not yet developed enough to open a directed coho salmon fishery. Consequently, commercial fishing will remain on hold in accordance with the fall chum and coho salmon management plans until abundance of both species increases significantly.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Two fishers asked whether there would be additional commercial periods for fall chum in the U.S. An ADF&G representative responded that there is a good chance of more openings, as long as more fish enter the river. He noted that there is still time for one or two more pulses of fall chum this season.

Another caller inquired about fall chum escapement for parent years of this year's run. ADF&G relayed that there were good escapements, so now the important consideration is the production of those fish.

ADF&G made two further announcements during the call:

1. The annual subsistence salmon survey will be held in September and October in 33 communities, starting in the lower river. A total of 1,400 households will be surveyed. As in the past, surveyors will be working with local assistants. Fishers are asked to share their subsistence salmon harvest calendars with surveyors or staple the calendars shut and mail them back to ADF&G. This year, those returning completed calendars will be eligible for one of six \$100 prizes.
2. The radio-telemetry study that will tag fall chum with radio tags on the Tanana River has begun. Fishers are asked to contact ADF&G if they find a tag.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call # 13 – August 26, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Emmonak, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Koyukuk, The Rapids, Rampart, Minto, Nenana, Circle, Eagle, Old Crow

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Pilot Station	DFO
USFWS –Fairbanks, Anchorage	Boreal Fisheries
Interior Alaska Fish Processors	Kwikpak Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Water levels are generally dropping throughout the river, except in Eagle where the river is up a bit. Subsistence fishing activity is low throughout the drainage. With the beginning of moose season, berry-picking, and caribou hunting, many people are not fishing. Those who are report normal-to-low catches and normal quality of fall chum and still only a few cohos caught yet.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* As of August 25, the cumulative fall chum passage at the Pilot Station sonar was 496,000 fish, which is below the average of 611,000 for this date. Based on this estimate and historical average run timing, the current run size projection is 600,000 fall chum passing through the lower river. Genetic analyses indicate that the majority of the first three pulses of fall chum are likely bound for the tributaries in the upper Yukon River drainage. As the run progresses, an increasing percentage will contribute to Tanana River stocks as is typical. The coho salmon run is building and it is estimated that 93,000 have passed Pilot Station sonar as of August 25, which is slightly below the average of 112,000 for this date.

Weather along the coast has been calm and clear for several days, which may be causing salmon to hold offshore. The first small pulse of fall chum is expected to be in the vicinity of Circle, the second pulse near Stevens Village, and the third near Koyukuk. Additional smaller groups of chum and coho salmon have entered the river this week and are following behind the third pulse.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*DFO Input:* Chinook assessment projects are finished for the season. They showed a disappointing return of fish that is less than last year. At the Whitehorse fishway, 285 Chinook have returned so far, with the estimated total projected to be 300-340. The fish are bigger than usual, of high quality, and consist of 30% females, which is an unusually high percentage of females.

A mark-recapture program for fall chum on the Porcupine River near Old Crow begins this week. Since Eagle Sonar switched to fall chum last week, 2,129 fall chum have passed, which is about average (based on last 2 years of data). Based on data collected at Pilot Station, DFO projects there will be enough fall chum of Canadian origin to meet escapement objectives and to provide for a commercial fishing period, possibly at the end of this week.

*ADF&G Fall Chum Management:* The fall chum run is expected to be adequate to meet escapement needs, provide for subsistence uses, and meet border passage commitments; therefore no subsistence restrictions are anticipated. There is a small surplus available for commercial harvest in accordance with the coho management plan. As the coho run is near its peak and the quality of both coho and fall chum is still very good, two 4-hour openers were announced in Districts 1 (August 25, 8am – noon) and 2 (August 26, 5pm – 9pm) to target coho salmon. Additional periods are dependent upon the results of these two periods and further assessment of the runs.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

One fisher asked about the parent years of next year's Chinook run. ADF&G responded that the run tends to consist of 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds. So the parent years of next year's run would be 2003 for the 6-year-olds, 2004 for the 5-year-olds, and 2005 for the 4-year-olds.

ADF&G had understood that fishers in the middle river had done okay last week; two fishers from the area commented that this has been the poorest fall chum run ever, and that while some people have done okay that is mostly because there were multiple boats fishing for a single smoke house. ADF&G reiterated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> pulse should be in the Koyukuk region, after which the cohos will pick up, so they are interested to see how people do in the next few days.

One of the processors on the call asked that ADF&G change the wording in the harvest calendars from "dog salmon" to "summer chum salmon."

Another caller wondered when ADF&G would end their test fishing in Emmonak and the sonar at Pilot Station, and if there would be any commercial openings after that point. ADF&G responded that the Emmonak test net will end on August 28 and the sonar will stop on September 7. There will be other projects still assessing the run, however, so ADF&G will continue to monitor the run for future potential commercial periods. A fisher from the Tanana River wanted to know if ADF&G had ruled out commercial fishing in that region, to which ADF&G replied that they had not. They are watching the proportion of fish heading to the Tanana River at Pilot Station, and based on this data may make a decision late next week.

One fisher wanted to know if many sockeye or other invasive fish had been caught in the assessment projects this year. ADF&G replied that although there had been some sockeye returning to the Andreafsky and Gisasa Rivers, they were resident populations of fish. ADF&G has not seen any other non-resident fish to be concerned with.

ADF&G made one additional announcement:

The annual subsistence salmon survey will begin in Emmonak on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Surveyors will then be in Alakanuk on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, and in Nunam Iqua on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Fishers are asked to share their subsistence salmon harvest calendars with surveyors or staple the calendars shut and mail them back to ADF&G.

**Yukon River Inseason Management Teleconference  
Call #14 – September 2, 2008**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Funded by:** USFWS – Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel

**Communities involved in the call:** Emmonak, St. Mary’s, Pilot Station, Holy Cross, Grayling, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Galena, Circle

**Government and Other Organization/Entities:**

ADF&G – Emmonak, Fairbanks, Anchorage	DFO
USFWS –Fairbanks	Boreal Fisheries

**Subsistence Reports:**

Subsistence fishing activity is low throughout the drainage this week. At the end of last week a pulse of fall chum went through the lower river, slacking off earlier this week. Most fishers reported people out moose hunting and not fishing. Whitefish are being caught in the G.A.S.H. region, and good salmon fishing was reported last week in Nulato and Koyukuk and Galena. Fish reported from the middle river and the Yukon Flats are reported as still looking good.

Water levels in the lower river are dropping or are low throughout most of the Alaska portion of the river. Circle saw high water last week which caused the loss of three fish wheels. Eagle also saw high water but reports that it is now beginning to drop. There is also a lot of driftwood in Eagle.

**Management Updates:**

*ADF&G Assessment and Management Strategies:* The end of the fall salmon runs are approaching in the lower river. An unusually late pulse of fall chum began entering the river on August 25, consisting of 90,000 fall chum. The cumulative Pilot Station sonar estimate of the fall chum passage is 612,000 fall chum as of September 1. What was initially considered the first pulse of salmon should be combined with the second pulse because the two have merged together as they move upriver. This pulse of fish should be near the US/Canada border. The next significant pulse should be near the community of Tanana, while the most recent pulse of fish should be near Holy Cross.

Cohos have been steadily entering the river over the past few weeks. The cumulative coho salmon estimate is 125,000 past the Pilot Station sonar as of September 1, which is slightly below average for this date.

Additional commercial fishing opportunities are planned for this week in Districts 1 and 2 as the abundance of fall chum and coho is enough to meet escapement, subsistence and border passage goals. Subdistrict 4A, 5B, 5C and 6 may all have commercial openers announced this week depending on river and market conditions. Subsistence fishing in these districts will happen concurrently with any commercial periods.

*Current Subsistence Fishing Schedule and Assessment Projects* – please visit the ADF&G website at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php> for this information.

*DFO Input:* The Chinook run is basically over and DFO has pulled some of the Chinook assessment programs. The run was lower than expected and border passage commitments will not be met.

While it is still early in the fall chum run, DFO expects the numbers to build to a peak in mid to late September. Fall chum counts at the fish wheel projects are low, but the wheels have been down due to high water. Water levels have also kept the Fishing Branch weir from being installed. Based on DNA analysis of fall chum at Pilot Station, the predicted amount of fish expected to reach Canadian waters should be enough to meet escapement targets and provide enough surplus for harvest opportunities. The commercial and domestic fisheries opened on August 31 and closed on September 4. More openings are anticipated.

**Local Input & Closing Comments:**

Numerous questions were asked about the commercial season to date and how far into the fall the season may go. From ADF&G, it was learned that fishing will continue into September, and perhaps into October on the Tanana River. Assessment projects still operating will end by September 7, and the lower river commercial fishery will end by September 10. To date, the commercial fisheries have taken about 4600 Chinook salmon in chum salmon directed openings with an average weight of 14 pounds.

Another fisher wanted to know what the Chinook numbers were this year through the Gisasa weir and how they compared to previous years. An ADF&G representative responded that 1735 Chinook went through this year, and compared to the past three years that number is reasonable based on the overall run size.

Some discussion took place on the recent change to sonar at Eagle to count fish at the border and how that method compares to the previous mark-recapture method. DFO and ADF&G jointly explained that the two assessment programs ran concurrently for three years, but there were some inconsistencies in the numbers so it is difficult to directly compare them. However, all parties via a Panel decision agreed to use the sonar method for Chinook and chum. Based on these results, the Joint Technical Committee developed and recommended a one year escapement goal to the Panel and the JTC has additional work to do to define an upper end for the goal. Eventually more in-depth information will be available on this transition from ADF&G.

It was decided at the end of the call that this would be the final teleconference of the season.

The ADF&G Emmonak office will likely be closing in the middle of next week. The ADF&G Fairbanks office phone number is 907.459.7274.

## **Appendix D – Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Summaries**

### **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #1 – Lower Yukon – January 20, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities/Tribes involved in the call:** Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, Native Village of Hamilton, Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Yupiit of Andreafsky

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, Boreal Fish, YDFDA, KwikPak Fisheries, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

#### **Preliminary pre-season projection – ADF&G & USFWS**

Preliminary analyses suggest the 2009 Yukon River Chinook salmon run will likely be below average to poor. It is prudent to enter the 2009 season with the expectation that conservation measures may be required in an effort to share the available subsistence harvest amount and meet escapement goals. Directed Chinook salmon fishery is unlikely in 2009. Since nearly half the Yukon Chinook salmon that are harvested in Alaska are spawned in Canada, it is very important to keep Canadian escapements healthy. Every fish counts and fishers are requested to identify options for getting fish to spawning grounds.

#### **Questions and Answers**

To begin the call, there was a request for clarification about these teleconferences. YRDFA responded that the point of the calls was to make sure everyone understands what the projections mean for this summer and to look for ideas on how to conserve this year's Chinook salmon run.

Participants asked what information management has on the decline of salmon stocks and what's being done to find out more. USFWS responded that they don't have a very good understanding of why there has been low production. There are many possible causes, but we need to deal with what comes back to the river. ADF&G added that they are conducting studies on bycatch and ocean survival and have proposals in to look at environmental factors within the river.

A subject brought up multiple times on the call was customary trade. People wanted to know about the possibility of stopping the practice at least until the king runs came back. USFWS addressed this question, saying that the Yukon River Panel is requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board review customary trade, which could mean consider suspending or limiting the practice for the upcoming season. USFWS is not sure how quickly that process can happen. Another factor repeatedly raised was the effect of salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery on Yukon River stocks. ADF&G mentioned that YRDFA and AVCP were providing testimony to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to try and reduce salmon bycatch. ADF&G and the Yukon River Panel are also involved. The outcome of this process will not be in place until 2011, so it's important to focus on addressing issues within the river that we can control.

Other questions raised on the call brought up the following responses from ADF&G: 1) the most recent results of ADF&G's subsistence survey available was from 2006, and that it could be found on their website; 2) there was no commercial fishery in Canada in 2008 and the First Nations voluntarily reduced their king harvest by half last year, and 3) reducing mesh size means catching less kings and catching smaller kings, thereby letting more and larger fish to the spawning grounds, which means more eggs.

## **Comments from Fishers**

### *General*

We are all users of the salmon resource.  
People reduced their take last year.  
No use pointing fingers – lots of people all the way to Canada rely on the salmon. Need to work with people in other parts of the river - we all need fish.  
Not that many Chinook salmon are taken for subsistence in the lower river – the main resource and harvest focus is summer chum.  
Subsistence users take what they need.  
Hard times in the villages - can not take any time away from subsistence.  
Feels like the lower river always bears the brunt of conservation measures.  
Few jobs, what commercial fishing there is pays for food, fuel, electricity etc. If there's no commercial, subsistence will be even more important.  
People are going broke commercial fishing.  
Need to get more fish to Canadian spawning grounds to maintain future generations.  
If things continue the way they've been going, there will not be a fishery at all.  
Erosion is a problem.  
There is something wrong in the ocean.  
Water in slough is rust colored and milky.  
Debris in the Yukon has an effect on what comes in at the mouth.

### *General management*

The run is usually past by the time commercial fishing opens.  
Different time restrictions in different parts of the river is not fair.  
Windows schedule makes it harder to catch fish – fish are not there when the window is open.  
People comply with windows in the lower river. If you're late pulling a net, you get cited – hasn't seen that happen in the upper river.  
Reducing harvest of first run of kings would hurt many people. The lower Yukon depends on the first run due to the generally better weather during that time period. Waiting till mid-June to fish could be a problem because the fish won't dry due to rainy weather.  
Subsistence calendars are not filled out accurately – not good subsistence count.  
How was someone selling fresh Chinook salmon for sale in Anchorage last summer?  
Why are Chinook salmon getting smaller?

### *Gear*

There's no talk of 6 inch mesh on the upper river - need to do this for the entire river.  
What about restrictions on fish wheels?  
6 inch mesh size still catches Chinook salmon.  
Reducing mesh size will catch all the small fish before they have a chance to grow up.  
Chinook salmon incidentally caught in chum nets dead by the time fishers check their nets.  
Fish wheels and beach seines catch the most fish.

## **Recommendations from Fishers**

Focus on customary trade in all regions of the river and maybe stop it. Need to focus on illegal customary trade in all regions of the river.  
Bycatch needs to be limited.  
Reduce sport fishing, personal use and bycatch before subsistence.  
Equal shares – catch quotas or harvest limits.  
Restrictions need to happen throughout the river, not just the lower river.  
Use 1 proposal at a time to manage the river.  
Hatcheries should be considered for the Yukon River, working with the Canadians.  
Can't implement restrictions too early or use too small mesh size because of sheefish fishing.  
Put sonars in the river every 200 miles to keep watch on the fish.

## **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #1 – Middle Yukon – January 21, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities/Tribes involved in the call:** Marshall, Holy Cross, Shageluk, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Allakaket, Alatna, Wiseman, Ruby

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, Interior Alaska Fish Processors, BLM, Tanana Chiefs Conference, USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

### **Preliminary pre-season projection – ADF&G & USFWS**

Preliminary analyses suggest the 2009 Yukon River Chinook salmon run will likely be below average to poor. It is prudent to enter the 2009 season with the expectation that conservation measures may be required in an effort to share the available subsistence harvest amount and meet escapement goals. Directed Chinook salmon commercial fishery is unlikely in 2009. Since nearly half the Yukon Chinook salmon that are harvested in Alaska are spawned in Canada, it is very important to keep Canadian escapements healthy. Every fish counts and fishers are being asked to identify options for getting fish to spawning grounds.

### **Questions and Answers**

First, there was a request for clarification of the numbers given by ADF&G, in particular how many fish are expected to return this year and what sort of reduction might be expected. ADF&G responded that about 125,000 Chinook salmon passed Pilot Station last year, and this year's run should be similar. Around 150,000 Chinook salmon past Pilot Station would meet escapement and subsistence. Last year's subsistence harvest was reduced, but escapement was still not made. ADF&G is not going to put a number on subsistence reductions, but will manage inseason. Another fisher wanted to know if ADF&G looks only at Pilot Station when making their decisions on possible commercial fisheries. ADF&G said that while the majority of the decision is based on the numbers at Pilot, they look at all the other inseason projects.

One caller wanted to know what the process was to limit bycatch in the pollock fishery. YRDFA gave an update on the work being done through the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to this end. Final action will be taken by the Council at their April meeting. The options being considered include a range of caps, which would either close the entire pollock fishery down or close an area when a set amount of Chinook salmon has been caught. The hard cap options range from 29,000 to 87,500 Chinook salmon. Testimony can be given in person at the April meeting or in writing before the meeting.

With declining salmon run sizes, it was asked why each village can't hatch their own salmon eggs and release them into streams or why large hatcheries are not being pursued. USFWS answered that there can be a high mortality associated with trying to spawn, incubate, and release salmon if not done properly. If the location is not a natural spawning site, the salmon have to be held and ripened, which typically results in a lower success rate. If the area is not a natural spawning site already, there are probably good reasons for that. The Yukon River Regional Plan Team in 1989 identified in their planning document that large scale hatcheries were not supported for the Yukon River – fishers wanted to focus on maintaining healthy natural stocks. It takes two to three life cycles (12 to 18 years for Chinook salmon) for hatchery production to increase sufficiently to make an impact to the fishery. It is very expensive to build and maintain a large hatchery and the survival rates for fish produced from in-river hatcheries appears to experience similar survival and mortality rates as natural fish. If there is low production for natural fish then there will likely be low production for hatchery fish also.

There was much talk on gear size, with one caller asking about comparative mesh size studies. ADF&G answered that a selectivity study begun in 2007 is being continued this summer, but the study does not

look at drop-out rates, a concern brought up on this call. Other fishers asked about potential restrictions for parts of the mainstem Yukon and tributaries; however ADF&G did not have an answer to that yet.

### **Comments from Fishers**

#### *General comments*

Fish are not wasted.  
Facing severe problem with number of Chinook salmon.  
Work together. Take action. Don't put off the problem to future generations.  
Have to get more fish to Canada or soon there won't be any fish in the river.  
River has changed. Some good fishing spots are gone now.  
Water was warmer last year.  
Not many Chinook salmon went by last year.  
Less fish are being caught recently regardless of effort.  
Never had much Chinook salmon to begin with (Koyukuk River area).  
Concern about Grayling gravel project and possible effects on fish.

#### *General comments on management*

Current management isn't working. The closer you live to the mouth, the more fish. Less fish as you go upriver, and we're not meeting escapement.  
Harvest windows are set with no regard to the pulses of fish. Can't fish on the pulses always.  
Upriver subsistence fishing is more liberal – should be looked at.  
People on the river have to work with ADF&G to conserve salmon.  
Bycatch, ghost fishing gear, and windows are all problems.

#### *Reducing mesh size*

No one goes for fall chum.  
Caught more smaller fish using smaller mesh, big fish went by.  
Chum gear does more damage than good.  
Large Chinook salmon still get caught drop out and die in chum nets.  
Listen to the lower river when they talk about dropping fish with chum gear.  
Downriver had problem with smaller gear.

#### *Selling of salmon*

Concerned about incentive to sell bycatch Chinook salmon in the chum fishery  
How do you track numbers of customary trade? Is it a problem?

### **Recommendations from Fishers**

Prepare for the worst – talk to your community about how bad it might be, think of ways to use the fish caught more efficiently, or to reduce the number of fish caught.  
Reduce fishing time.  
Liberalize subsistence fishing time as you go upriver. Downriver has more fish so the idea is they need less time to harvest what they need.  
Limit mesh size to 7 inches and reduce depth.  
Limit mesh depth to 35 inches.  
Need data on drop loss with small mesh gear.  
Changing fishing gear is not an option - people don't have 6" gear to fish with.  
Put everything on the table, look at customary trade. Should be a priority for those who fish solely for themselves and don't sell.  
More sonar needed along the river.  
Create summary of what management options have been tried - what's worked, what didn't.  
Yukon fishers should figure out a management plan to present to ADF&G.

## **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #1 – Upper Yukon – January 22, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities/Tribes involved in the call:** Tanana, Manley, Nenana, Eagle

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, Interior Alaska Fish Processors

### **Preliminary pre-season projection – ADF&G & USFWS**

Preliminary analyses suggest the 2009 Yukon River Chinook salmon run will likely be below average to poor. It is prudent to enter the 2009 season with the expectation that conservation measures may be required in an effort to share the available subsistence harvest amount and meet escapement goals. Directed Chinook salmon commercial fishery is unlikely in 2009 on the mainstem river, but there may be opportunity for a small commercial harvest on the Tanana River, as this is managed as a terminal fishery.. Since nearly half the Yukon Chinook salmon that are harvested in Alaska are spawned in Canada, it is very important to keep Canadian escapements healthy. Every fish counts and fishers are being asked to identify options for getting fish to spawning grounds.

### **Questions and Answers**

A couple of participants on the call wanted to know if there could be some type of subsidy, and/or disaster assistance similar to what farmers can receive, if there were no fishing this year. YRDFA agreed to look into the matter.

### **Comments from Fishers**

#### *General*

If regulations are in place, fishers must adhere to them.

Be conservative, keep in mind escapement goals.

Focus on other options besides Chinook salmon for subsistence, such as chum.

Difficult to get fish last year.

Need involvement on Yukon Flats and Minto (They were not on the teleconference). Lower Yukon does not bear the brunt of conservation.

Lower Yukon is also harvesting Tanana stocks when they say they're targeting lower Yukon stocks.

Y-6 terminal commercial fishery is good, but the quota can't accommodate fishers from other districts (4 & 5).

#### *Customary Trade*

Having a federal moratorium on customary trade is an option, but is problematic

People should contact the Federal Subsistence Board and ask them to remove customary trade until the Chinook salmon runs recover.

### *Mesh Size*

Kenai Chinook salmon are big now because mesh size was reduced in the 80s.  
Current problems we are facing we're predictable; need to reduce gear size to fix.  
Concern that going to 7.5 inch mesh will just target the next largest size of fish and potential remove them from gene pool.

### *Escapement*

Must preserve the stock of Canadian Chinook salmon.  
Problem not just with Canadian stocks, problems with the Tanana River too.  
Good parent year escapement but still poor returns means we are not passing fish of high enough quality into Canada.  
Too many small, male fish are being put on the spawning grounds.

### **Recommendations from Fishers**

Restrict fishing time to reduce harvest – it is as effective, enforceable and equitable as can be.  
Subsistence windows should not be altered when there is a commercial fishery opening.  
Reduce mesh size to 6-inch with advance notice and outreach (Note: most fishers do not have 6" mesh but it sounded like most people had "chum" gear).  
Do not go to 7.5" mesh as it will take the remaining productive age classes of 6 year olds.  
Look at drop out rates with smaller mesh – will it be a bigger problem?  
Voluntary 25% reduction in individual or household harvest by all subsistence fishermen.  
Need to sacrifice and let the Chinook go by for a few years until they recover.  
No customary trade that leaves the village. Could there be a federal moratorium on customary trade?  
Ask lower Yukon to shift off Chinook salmon entirely and focus on chums for subsistence.  
No sale of bycatch kings from chum commercial fishery.  
Commercial fishery in Tanana would be fine, even if there is not one on the main stem Yukon.  
Need new way of thinking – taking into consideration the smaller size of Chinook salmon and problems like ichthyophonous.  
Address the quality of escapement or the problem will remain – need females of large size. Smaller females have less eggs of a smaller size which are less able to survive. Escapement goals are in numbers of fish only– when most of the fish are male it is a problem.

## **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #2 – Lower Yukon – February 9, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities/Tribes involved in the call:** Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Yupiit of Andreafsky

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, Boreal Fish, KwikPak Fisheries, TCC

### **Introduction – Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association**

The purpose of this call is to follow up on the 1<sup>st</sup> call, held in late January. Each recommendation provided on the previous call will be discussed in more detail. In April, an in-person meeting will be held with representatives from each District in the drainage.

### **Customary Trade**

The concern, as understood by managers, is that there shouldn't be selling of subsistence fish for cash when there may not be enough salmon for people to feed their families.

Customary trade is not allowed by the state, but is under federal regulations

The Yukon River Panel has requested that the FSB review relevant federal regulations

Customary trade can be from river resident to river resident or to urban resident.

USFWS is anticipating a special action request to suspend customary trade to urban residents in 2009.

Many fishers acknowledged customary trade should be looked at and perhaps curtailed.

If lower river fishers let salmon go by, they want assurances that those fish will not be harvested by other users for sale.

Enforcement is up to law enforcement officers, but there is lot of river to cover.

USFWS does not know how much customary trade is occurring, but believes that it has become more visible with overall lower runs.

There are approximately 20,000 fish unaccounted for, some of which are being taken in customary trade.

### **Limit Fishing Time**

Windows are problematic.

Windows too early in season will limit ability to harvest alternates to Chinook salmon, such as sheefish and whitefish

Limited fishing time is not ideal, but some fishers would rather see that than closures

If there are restrictions in the lower river, should be restrictions throughout the river

Needs to be enforcement to ensure that the forfeited fish get to the spawning grounds.

### **Sonars**

Some fishers would like for there to be a way to harvest fish once they enter the river, as by the time they are counted at Pilot Station sonar fishers at the mouth can't fish for them

ADF&G uses all monitoring projects, including sonars at Pilot Station and Eagle, for inseason management decisions.

The Eagle sonar runs into October

32,000 fish went through the sonar at Eagle, when 55,000 fish needed to go through

### **Reduce sport, personal use, and bycatch**

Many groups throughout western Alaska are working on lowering bycatch through the North Pacific Fishery Management process.

Final action on bycatch should be taken in April – fishers are encouraged to comment.

There is little sportfish harvest in the Yukon River drainage, and no inseason monitoring

In 2007, about 900 salmon were taken by sportfishers, 2/3 of which came from the Tanana, Salcha and Chena Rivers.

If subsistence activities are curtailed, sportfishing opportunities will also be restricted through lower bag limits, a ban on retention or a closure of the fishery.

ADF&G takes about 1500 Chinook salmon in their test fisheries, which are given away in the communities. They are looking at ways to reduce this amount.

### **Voluntary catch reductions/closures**

Voluntary reductions could be based on a percentage of fish or a hard number

Closures have been suggested around the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse of Chinook, or on the entire run

Suggestion was made to shift harvest to other species for food

If there is any type of closure or reduction, fishers want assurance that the fish they don't harvest will not be caught by upriver users, but will get to spawning grounds

Concern that enforcing a 1<sup>st</sup> pulse closure would be hard to enforce throughout the river

Concern voiced that a complete closure on the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse would only switch the burden of harvest on later Alaskan stocks, potentially negatively impacting them.

Rather than a closure on the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse, there was more support for limiting time and spreading the harvest over the entire Chinook salmon run

Suggestion made to delay the fishing start by 5 days or so to let fish pass.

### **Reduce mesh size/depth**

Last summer there was reduced time and mesh size for 3 periods toward the end of June.

Fishers want to harvest summer chum while Chinook salmon are in the river – limiting net depth suggested as way to allow that

One fisher said that mesh size restrictions should not be implemented.

### **General Comments**

No commercial opening is an economic disaster and will hurt people throughout the year.

Need to work together to figure out income alternatives until the Chinook salmon rebound.

A river-wide consensus on harvest reduction efforts is needed.

Need assurances that harvest reductions in lower river will be matched throughout the region.

No subsistence would be a huge problem, it is people's livelihoods.

Subsistence needs from the coast to Canada must come first.

Consider all factors for salmon survival, including seals, whales, pikes, beaver, and diseases.

Canadian hatcheries release 200,000 to 300,000 marked juveniles each year. It is thought those fish tend not to spawn with wild fish, so probably little interaction/impact on wild fish.

Hard to put up fall chum as dry fish because of bad weather.

People don't overharvest or waste fish.

Need to do something about unreported catches by people fishing from out of state or region.

Lower Yukon River residents are resilient people.

If we don't do something, what're we going to say in 10 years when there are no more fish?

## **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #2 – Middle Yukon – February 11, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities/Tribes involved in the call:** Holy Cross, Shageluk, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Wiseman, Galena, Ruby

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, Tanana Chiefs Conference

### **Introduction – Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association**

The purpose of this call is to follow up on the 1<sup>st</sup> call, held in late January. Each recommendation provided on the previous call will be discussed in more detail. In April, an in-person meeting will be held with representatives from each District in the drainage.

### **Customary Trade**

The concern, as understood by managers, is that there shouldn't be selling of subsistence fish for cash when there may not be enough salmon for people to feed their families.

The Yukon River Panel has requested that the FSB review relevant federal regulations

Customary trade can be from river resident to river resident or to urban residents.

USFWS is anticipating a special action request to suspend customary trade to urban residents in 2009.

Customary trade has been around years and years.

If run is as poor as or poorer than anticipated should look at all options, including C&T.

People getting fish for themselves should get priority over those who are selling.

### **Voluntary catch reductions/closures**

Possible voluntary reductions could be based on a percentage of fish or a hard number

Closures have been suggested around the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse of Chinook, or on the entire run, but may not be necessary

Completely closing Chinook salmon fishing for one salmon lifecycle (5-6 years) would be a good option to help the fish rebound.

Would it be possible to target other stocks or other species for food?

1<sup>st</sup> pulse of summer chums are pretty good for about a week for middle river fishermen, but then quality deteriorates

Catch reductions would be better than total closures.

If there were closures, ADF&G would still have projects in the water to gather data

Personal conviction and desire to reduce harvest is the only thing that would work

Some support was expressed for allowing the first pulse of Chinook to go by

Concern was voiced about total closures because there is no guarantee that it will pay off because of other production problems, among other things

TCC is exploring the concept of an allocation of fish based on historic percentages.

### **Sonars**

ADF&G uses all monitoring projects, including sonars at Pilot Station and Eagle, for inseason management decisions.

The Eagle sonar runs into October

32,000 fish went through the sonar at Eagle, when 55,000 fish needed to go through

### **Limit Fishing Time**

Reduced periods last year – how would that affect people this year?

Wanting to reduce harvest by reducing times, not have people fish harder

How much of a reduction is possible? To 18 hrs in the middle river?

Reduced fishing time usually just leads to people fishing harder on one particular segment of the run which isn't good

To reduce the number of fish caught doesn't matter about time as much as it needs individuals and communities working to reduce catch.

Could look at limiting time earlier in the run than last year since last year's restrictions didn't have the desired effect of reducing the overall harvest.

### **Reduce mesh size/depth**

Chinook are smaller today than in the past. Some chums are bigger

Give people time sufficient notice if mesh sizes are going to change

Concerns about switching to smaller nets as not all fishermen have them. There had been talk about phasing in smaller mesh over a timeframe of years.

Suggest cutting in half the 50 fathom nets that are used so that they are 25 fathom nets.

One fisherman spoke out against reducing mesh size because of the high drop out rate.

1<sup>st</sup> pulse of summer chums are pretty good for about a week for middle river fishermen, but then quality deteriorates

### **Reduce sport, personal use, and bycatch**

Many groups throughout western Alaska are working on lowering bycatch through the North Pacific Fishery Management process.

Final action on bycatch should be taken in April – fishers are encouraged to comment.

There is little sportfish harvest in the Yukon River drainage, and no inseason monitoring

In 2007, about 900 salmon were taken by sportfishers, 2/3 of which came from the Tanana, Salcha and Chena Rivers.

If subsistence activities are curtailed, sportfishing opportunities will also be restricted through lower bag limits, a ban on retention or a closure of the fishery.

ADF&G takes about 1500 Chinook salmon in their test fisheries, which are given away in the communities. They are looking at ways to reduce this amount.

### **Prepare for worst, talk to community**

A tribal membership meeting in Koyukuk resulted in requesting the Tribal Council to pass a resolution in support of voluntary closures of the 1<sup>st</sup> Chinook salmon pulse

All communities are encourage to hold meetings to discuss this issue

Request was made for YR DFA to provide support for community meetings

### **General Comments**

USFWS thinks a Tier 2 fishery is unlikely at this point in time. Looking at the Norton Sound Tier II fishery, it would likely take years to happen. Managers anticipate Yukon salmon stocks to rebound, and a tiered situation is for depressed runs unlikely to do so.

Canadian hatcheries release 200,000 to 300,000 marked juveniles each year. It is thought those fish tend not to spawn with wild fish, so probably little interaction/impact on wild fish.

## **Yukon River Summer Season Preparedness Teleconference Call #2 – Upper Yukon – February 13, 2009**

**Facilitated by:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

**Communities involved in the call:** Tanana, Rampart, Nenana, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Circle, Eagle

**Other entities on the call:** ADF&G, USFWS, NPS, TCC, Interior Alaska Fish Processors.

### **Introduction – Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association**

The purpose of this call is to follow up on the 1<sup>st</sup> call, held in late January. Each recommendation provided on the previous call will be discussed in more detail. In April, an in-person meeting will be held with representatives from each District in the drainage.

### **Customary Trade**

The concern, as understood by managers, is that there shouldn't be selling of subsistence fish for cash when there may not be enough salmon for people to feed their families.

Customary trade is not allowed by the state, but is under federal regulations.

The Yukon River Panel has requested that the FSB review relevant federal regulations.

Customary trade can be from river resident to river resident or to urban resident.

USFWS is anticipating a special action request to suspend customary trade to urban residents in 2009.

Most participants on the call questioned if suspending customary trade would be an effective conservation measure and did not feel this issue was worth addressing during this call, choosing instead to focus on immediate actions that each fisher could take to reduce their harvest.

Enforce restrictions on selling strips at venues like AFN.

### **Voluntary catch reductions/closures**

Fish 1<sup>st</sup> pulse in Eagle when there are more small males and a lack of females in the run.

Growing support in some communities for some type of closure, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse.

The lack of females in the first pulse may not be natural, could be more reason to protect that portion of the run.

Management is cautioned to be careful of what come directly before and after a closure to ensure there's not more fishing pressure on Alaska-origin stocks.

Complete closure of run unlikely to be supported by all regions.

Supplement Chinook salmon catches with fall chums.

Restrictions and closures should be community-based.

TCC is exploring the concept of an allocation of fish based on historic percentages.

Consider harvest quotas for families.

### **Limit Fishing Time**

Allow unrestricted fishing early in the season when few females are in the run. Restrict time with windows when females make up a bigger portion of the run.

There needs to be true windows where commercial and subsistence fishing happens concurrently throughout the river.

If time is limited, people will fish harder when they can fish. Need quotas of some sort.

### **Reduce mesh size/depth**

Some support was expressed for going to a smaller mesh size in general and no larger than 6 inches in particular.

Others felt that mesh size doesn't seem to matter much, but some people who fish with larger mesh are willing to try using smaller.

Those who don't have small mesh to fish with will still get fish from those fishers who can fish with reduced mesh.

### **Reduce sport, personal use, bycatch**

Final action on bycatch should be taken at the April meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council – fishers are encouraged to comment.

CDQ groups have some conflict of interest in that they are allocated a percentage of the pollock harvest so are responsible for some amount of salmon bycatch, but they also represent their communities, which rely on the in-river salmon harvest. To date, they have been very supportive of getting more Chinook salmon to western Alaska rivers.

### **Prepare for worst, talk to community**

All regions are different, plan within regions and communities.

Best conservation results will come from community-based efforts with a community-based plan, even if it's harder for managers.

Come to the April meeting with positive suggestions of what their communities can do to reduce their impact on Chinook salmon

### **General Comments**

Fishers should focus on other fish species where and when available.

We shouldn't be living off the fish we're trying to protect

Pulling set nets is very burdensome, it would be better if they could tie up the nets instead.

The lack of quality escapement needs to be addressed.

There should be no sale of Chinook salmon from commercial chum fishery.

Generally a little over 50% of the 1<sup>st</sup> pulse is of Canadian origin; that percentage decreases as the run progresses until the last pulse is mainly US origin.

By the time of the April meeting, managers will have a draft management plan available for discussion. It will not be in final form, and managers will put a lot of weight on what happens at the meeting.

## Appendix E – Educational Exchange Itinerary

### 2008 Educational Exchange Travel Details

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#### Tuesday, June 17

7-11 a.m. Air North, Whitehorse to Fairbanks  
*Please get to airport at least 90 minutes before your flight*  
12:30-2 p.m. Participate in Inseason Management Teleconference  
2:30-4 p.m. Tour Interior Fish (local fish processor)  
6:30-8 p.m. Orientation dinner

#### Wednesday, June 18

8:15-11:30 a.m. Frontier Flying, Fairbanks to Bethel (through Anchorage)  
2:30-3:30 p.m. Grant Aviation, Bethel to Emmonak  
Meet with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to discuss fisheries management  
Witness test fisheries

#### Thursday, June 19

Tour village and boat to local fish camps with Herman Hooch to share knowledge on commercial & subsistence fishing and fishing and drying techniques  
Potluck with local residents  
Eskimo dancing

#### Friday, June 20

9-10:30 a.m. Tour Kwikpak (local fish processor)  
12:00-12:30 p.m. Grant Aviation, Emmonak to Pilot Station  
1-4 p.m. Tour ADF&G sonar  
4-5:30 p.m. Grant Aviation, Pilot Station to Tanana  
6:30 p.m. Dinner with locals at potlatch

#### Saturday, June 21

9 a.m.-noon Village tour with Faith Peters  
1-5 p.m. Boat to Rampart Rapids with Faith Peters  
Evening Tour salmon monitoring project at Stan Zuray's fish camp  
Discuss Yukon River Panel

#### Sunday, June 22

Learn about salmon sampling and fish biology from YRDFFA fisheries biologist Bob DuBey  
Visit local fish camps  
Discuss gear, harvest, drying techniques

#### Monday, June 23

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Boat to Tanana with Faith Peters  
3-3:45 p.m. Frontier Flying, Tanana to Fairbanks  
6:30-8 p.m. Debriefing dinner (discuss what was learned and how that knowledge will be shared with home communities)

#### Tuesday, June 24

11:40 a.m.-3:35 p.m. Air North, Fairbanks to Whitehorse  
*Please get to airport at least 90 minutes before your flight*

**IMPORTANT: You must have your current, unexpired passport with you.** Also, please arrive at the airport at least one hour before your flight for flights within the U.S., and 90 minutes before your flight for flights going between Canada and the U.S.

**Appendix F – Bycatch Mailer**

*(Salmon Bycatch Update attached)*

## Appendix G – 2009 Inseason Management Teleconference Promotions

(Promotional poster and conservation poster attached)

### Business Card (front and back)



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

**Yukon River In-Season Management Teleconferences**

**1:00 pm Alaska Time**  
**2:00 pm Yukon Time**  
**each Tuesday**

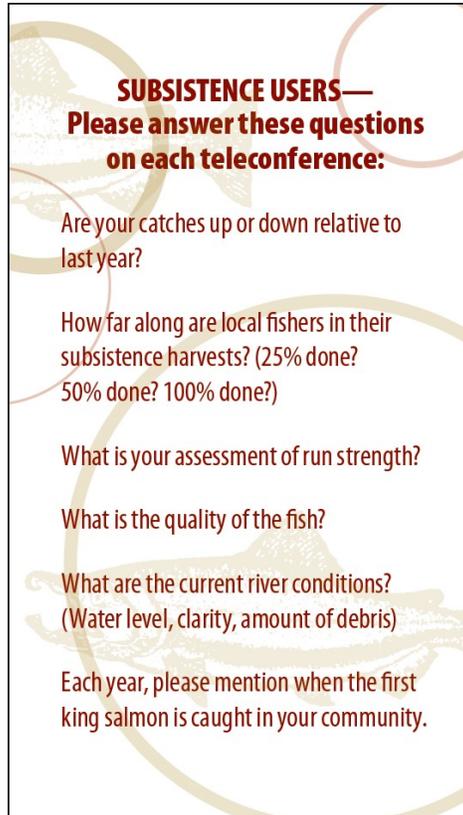
**Starting on May 26, 2009**

Tracking the run,  
one week at a time

**1-800-315-6338**

**PARTICIPANT CODE**  
**yukon#**  
**(98566#)**





**SUBSISTENCE USERS—**  
**Please answer these questions**  
**on each teleconference:**

Are your catches up or down relative to last year?

How far along are local fishers in their subsistence harvests? (25% done? 50% done? 100% done?)

What is your assessment of run strength?

What is the quality of the fish?

What are the current river conditions? (Water level, clarity, amount of debris)

Each year, please mention when the first king salmon is caught in your community.

Newspaper Ad #1 for Tundra Drums, Delta Discovery, and Fairbanks News-Miner)

# Yukon River Fisheries In-season Management Teleconferences

*ll.addn.rj fu JLU n, nm wflflil  
rd.al.imJl*

1:00pm 2:00pm  
Alaska Yukon  
Time Time

each Tuesday  
Starting on May 26, 2009

## 1-800-315-6338

Participant Code YUKON#(9856611)

*Learn about  
management strategies  
for Chinook salmon on the  
first call of the season-  
May 26, 2009*



**"fjRf iJtpDJoRtf!**

**Discuss fishing  
conditions  
& management strategies**  
Learn from fishers, processors,  
& managers  
Make your voice heard!

po\* bvhOfi<<ohu xm!fCoetMfi:Qar.el ; litWlonl'mt rInd

Newspaper Ad #2 for Fairbanks News-Miner)

# EVERY FISH COUNTS IN 2009

King salmon are important  
to everyone along the river.

Everyone shares a  
responsibility to get enough  
kings to the spawning  
grounds.

Let's all do our part to ensure  
strong, healthy salmon runs  
on the Yukon River.

Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund  
2009  
The Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund  
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information  
visit our website at [www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org)

Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund  
677-999-8566



677-999-8566 [yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org)

Flyer

# Yukon River Fisheries Inseason Management Teleconferences

*JJtarlU.nr.j fu ltlill, nMwal a*

1:00 pm Alaska Time | 7:00 pm Yukon Time  
each Tuesday

Starting on May 26, 2009

## 1-800-315-6338

Participant Code YUKON#(98566#)



### Purpos•

- Provide a forum for fishers, managers, processors, and others to communicate about current run conditions, including timing, abundance, and escapement during the fishing season.
- learn about and discuss existing conditions and management strategies.

### Agendo

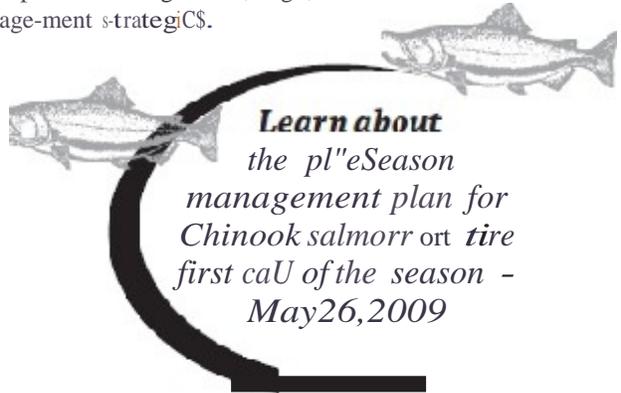
- Subsistence reports
- Management Update and Strategy
- Local Input, Questions, and Closing Comments

### Protocols

- State your name and village before speaking
- See you in the evening you should be to the
- Lighten up, be polite, and respectful

### Subsistence Questions

- Are your catches up or down relative to last year?
- How far along are local fishers in their subsistence harvests? (are they 25% done? 50% done? 100%?)
- What is your assessment of run strength?
- What is the quality of the fish?
- What are the current river conditions? (Water level, clarity, amount of debris)
- Join the community.



**Learn about**  
*the pre-season*  
*management plan for*  
*Chinook salmon*  
*first catch of the season -*  
*May 26, 2009*

!!!S\*f=-



## 9121 i.rwnloll.t!!

Discuss fishing conditions & management strategies  
 Learn from fishers, processors, & managers  
 Make your voice heard!

Feeling Of "FCJ-A" SponSote<J tyme otnceotSuD>InnceMa:nagErne-nt n:J :ne"l.MnR.lterPfid