



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 346
Bethel, Alaska 99559



June 18, 2018

2018 Kuskokwim Salmon Preservation Study

The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) is looking for volunteers who dry fish to participate in a fish preservation study during the 2018 salmon season.

Overview:

In recent years, Chinook salmon fishery closures have interfered with subsistence fishing activity. Subsistence fishing families targeting salmon have had to push back the time of when they dry their fish. The latter half of the summer usually has wetter weather and many fishermen have been frustrated by this damp weather hindering fish preservation and often causing fish to spoil. This project aims to investigate ways to make fish drying more successful. We also hope to begin a dialogue with subsistence fishers along the Kuskokwim River about the best ways to dry and preserve fish throughout the summer.

Participants in this study will be given bug netting that has higher airflow than traditional window and door screens and some participants will be given a fan, if desired. Participants have the option of setting up netting immediately or wait until after Chinook salmon drying is completed. This project aims to study challenges that occur with fish drying later in summer when the weather is wetter and flies are more prevalent. Throughout the summer participants will be interviewed while they are fishing for salmon to see how fish drying is going. At the end of the summer fishing season, a closeout interview will also be conducted.

This project is completely voluntary. There is no compensation from YDNWR.

If interested, contact Aaron P. Moses, Fisheries Biologist YDNWR at (907)-545-3620 or at aaron_moses@fws.gov