



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the #11 2024 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Call lasted 73 minutes. 48 callers participated.

Background: Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually every Tuesday in June, July, and August for managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies in real time as the salmon run is occurring. Funded by a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife.

Communities participating: 16

Management Reports:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Bonnie Borba, Fall Season Research Biologist, Emmonak, Alaska

I will provide the initial Fall Season assessment. Based on in-season assessment in the Fall, Chum salmon run is projected to be below the drainage wide escapement goal range of 300 to 600,000 Fall Chum salmon. The average Fall Chum salmon run size is usually over 950,000. The smaller than anticipated run size is supported by in-season assessment that the age 4 Fall Chum salmon return is weak. As of August 12th, the cumulative CPUE for both Lower Yukon Test Fish and the Mountain Village Test fishery are below the historical medians for Fall Chum salmon. The midpoint passage usually occurs between August 10th and the 13th for these projects. Coho salmon are tracking late at these projects and the first quarter points are typically around August 16th. The Mainstem Yukon River sonar project operated near Pilot Station, transitioned to fall season counts on July 19. As of August 12th, the cumulative passage is 124,000 Chum salmon. This compares to a median cumulative passage of 348,000 Chum salmon by this date, the midpoint for this project usually occurs on August 10 for Fall Chum salmon. The Chum salmon run is currently between pulses and counts at Pilot Station have been less than 2,000 fish per day for several days now. The first batch of Chum salmon genetic samples that were from July 19th through August 6th are currently in the lab. When results are available, they will be provided in the following weekly Advisory Announcement or look for them in the ADF&G Yukon River Daily update for those who subscribe. The number of Fall Chum salmon from this analysis will then also be included on the Facebook Assessment Project Postings and assessment based on the historical proportions for this time of year suggests there are less than 90,000 Fall chum salmon in Yukon River as we approach the middle of the run. The primary age composition of 280 Chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Lower Yukon Test Fish project through August 10th consisted of 47% age 4, 53% age 5, which compares to the 2001 to 23 historical average of 65% age 4 and 34% age 5. The percentage of female salmon was 45%, which is below the historical average of 56%. The average length is 572mm and is well below the historical average of 584mm through August 10th.

Monitoring of escapements in the Upper Yukon portion, which has begun the Teedriinjik Sonar operated by US Fish and Wildlife and the Sheenjek Sonar, are operated by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Both began on August 5th, Chum Salmon Passage at these sites for the first week are slightly below average. That Teedriinjik has an escapement goal of 85,000 to 234,000 Fall Chum salmon. Eagle sonar's average transition date from Chinook to Fall Chum salmon monitoring is around August 19. Last year, the transition occurred on August 23rd, to date they have not caught any Chum salmon yet at the site. Coho salmon typically entered the Yukon River in mid-August, with the bulk of the run occurring between August 16th

and the 27th at the Mainstem sonar. As of August 12th, the cumulative passage is only 4,000 Coho salmon. This compares to the median cumulative passage of 15,000 Coho salmon by this date. A few straggling pink salmon have been passing the Mainstem sonar and Pilot Station, and the run is usually 99% complete by this date. The passage of non-salmon species has been estimated since June 5th and is past the three quarter point of the historical run timing and they are tracking average and abundance at this time.

Christy Gleason, Yukon Area Fall Season Manager, Fairbanks, Alaska

I'll provide a management update. As Bonnie mentioned, currently the Fall Chum run size is projected to be below the drainage wide escapement. The number of Fall Chum we're seeing today is similar to the poor runs that we saw in 2020 and 2021, right now we're at the midpoint of the run. This means that subsistence fishing for Fall Chum salmon is going to have to remain closed for the season unless we see a substantial improvement in the run. For coho salmon, they're just starting out, they're starting out kind of slow. We are expecting a below average run, and we're going to be looking at that closely as well. For management Sub District 5D switched over to Fall season and their announcement came out yesterday. District 6 announcement will come out this week and again, fishermen can expect closures for Fall Chum salmon. I do want to remind fishermen, if you are using 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets that are 60 feet or shorter in length. They need to be avoiding salmon and it's critical that we try to rebuild these salmon runs. These salmon runs are really poor right now, and we need to let the fish go to get them up to their spawning grounds. I wish I had better news for Yukon fishermen today, but that's all I have.

Fred West, Summer Season Research Biologist, Bethel, AK

There's not really much of an update right now. The only assessment project for Summer season we have left pretty much is the Eagle sonar. As of August 12th, the cumulative passage at Eagle was 21,760 Chinook salmon ± 280 . Which is well below the historical average of just under 49,000 for this time period. As Bonnie mentioned, the average transition date between Chinook and Fall Chum is around August 19th, so we're approaching that date soon and assuming late run timing. The Chinook run at Eagle should be close to 95% complete. The passes that we've seen to date is well below average, but it is slightly higher than we saw in 2022 and 2023. So that's encouraging.

Deena Jallen, Summer Season Fishery Manager, Fairbanks, AK

All the districts have gotten their transition dates for Fall Season Management in place. We're transitioning out of Summer Season Management and heading towards the end of our season. Thanks everybody for all their efforts to conserve Chinook Salmon and get the fish up to their spawning areas that have been able to travel through this here.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Holly Carroll, Yukon River Area Manager, Fairbanks, Alaska

I don't have a lot to add, I think we're in pretty tough times still, there's not much we can do right now unless, like Christie says, we see a bunch more Fall Chum come in. That would be good news, but we just haven't seen the large pulses that we really would have needed to get us up above the drainage wide goal. I just echo what everyone's saying that I wish I had better news, but I'm also really grateful for the Yukon fisherman. For staying really informed on what's open, what's closed, for complying, for taking your own conservation measures. I know it's a loss of culture, a loss of tradition, a loss of family time and camp, and there's just nothing that can really fill that void.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jaelyn Kendall, Fishery Manager

Stock Assessment, at our Porcupine River camp, near the community of Old Crow, an estimated 422 Chinook salmon have passed as of August 11th, compared to 511 on this date last year and the average of 2,897. This is a minimum estimate due to the interruption in sonar operation caused by extremely high water earlier in July. Porcupine River sonar is currently in the expected period for crossover between Chinook and

chum. The field staff and biologists are currently examining the data to confirm a crossover date for chum that considers both current daily and historical estimates, and expected run timings. Estimates for chum passage on the Porcupine will be reported in the following days. As with last season, our crew on the Porcupine River is not test netting for Chinook salmon this year and we will be holding off on netting chum salmon as well. Our DFO technicians are on site at the Eagle Sonar camp and supporting this program, along with ADF&G, through the season. The Eagle sonar is located about 29 km downstream from Alaska's border with Canada; it is a collaboratively delivered project with ADF&G. In support of the 2024 Chinook Radio Telemetry program, DFO crews have installed 12 towers throughout the Yukon. These towers aren't equipped with satellite uplinks, so we won't be able to review data until receivers are pulled post-season. The Big Salmon Sonar is operational with an estimated 1,315 Chinook as of August 10, compared to 1456 on this date last year and the average of 5120. The Klondike River Sonar, operated by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is also operational and the most recent estimate is 179 Chinook as of August 2. This compared to 209 on this date last year and the average of just over 1,151. Sonars on the Pelly River, operated by Selkirk First Nation have been operational since July 4, and as of August 12 there has been an estimated cumulative passage of 2,709 Chinook salmon, compared to 1,564 on this date last year and the average of about 5,120. The Nisutlin River sonar, located in the Teslin River watershed, is now operational and reporting daily passage of Chinook salmon. The first update was provided for August 6, with an estimated cumulative passage of 226 Chinook. Last year on this date, the cumulative passage was 352. Environmental Conditions, temperatures over the past week have dropped a bit and we have had rain over the past couple days. It is predicted to rise a little but not by a lot. The water temperature has decreased and been in the low teens and probably won't change much. Canadian Management, there will be no changes to Canadian management to report for Chinook Salmon. In line with the newly signed 7-year agreement and the preliminary low Canadian origin Chinook salmon outlook for 2024, DFO has closed the recreational fishery for 2024 and will continue to close through 2030, and the current long-term closures in both the commercial and domestic (non-indigenous food fishery) fisheries will be extended through 2030. For Canadian origin chum salmon for 2024, with the low outlooks of 55,000 chum for the Yukon River and just 15,000 Chum for Fishing Branch River we are not anticipated to meet spawning objectives in Canada. The public angling fishery has been closed for 2024 and the commercial and domestic fishery long term closures will continue. Spawning Objectives for Chum are 70,000 to 104,000 for the Yukon River and 22,000 to 49,000 for the Fishing Branch River.

Special Report:

Lars Jessup, Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, Biologist, Mayo, YT Canada

My name is Lars Jessup, I'm a biologist. I do some consulting work for Na-Cho Nyak Dun out of Mayo. I'm based in Whitehorse, but I am in touch with their technical team. Na-Cho Nyak Dun has a technical team that has been assigned to the spill response, to the slide response. They're looking at monitoring and management at the site and in the river downstream. I can share some of those perspectives, but I don't really have a Na-Cho Nyak Dun Government perspective nor can I provide one just so everybody is aware. The really quick update, is that this slump at Victoria Gold, the Eagle Gold Mine happened in late June, so we're more than a month and a half out, six weeks out. Since then, there's been a pretty extensive monitoring program implemented in the Tiger Creek, the so the mine itself was on Dublin Gulch, which is a little tributary to Haggard Creek, which is a tributary to the South McQuesten River, tributary to the Stewart River and then the Yukon River. There are water sampling sites set up along Dublin Gulch, many of them around the site at Dublin Gulch, as well as all the way down Haggard Creek and then many others down the South McQuesten. There's been a whole bunch of short-term monitoring and a bunch of long-term monitoring plans as well. There is currently no gold production at the site. All activity at the site is bent on remediating the spill. They still need to make the site safe for work because the slope is still unstable, potentially on the heap leach. They're still trying to collect and treat water, lots of water treatment. There's lots of test sites on the way down the Creek. The short answer for the cyanide, they're looking for both cyanide in the Creek and the products that cyanide breaks down into because cyanide does breakdown fairly quickly when it hits the environment. They have found elevated levels of cyanide that are concerning to aquatic life, fish, bugs and other things only close to the site and within the first couple kilometers of

Haggard Creek downstream of the mine. About halfway down Haggard Creek towards the Stewart River, they've got other sampling sites and they haven't detected elevated levels of cyanide there. Down at the South McQuesten and they also haven't detected them there. Then there are other, Na-Cho Nyak Dun's neighboring First Nation, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in are also sampling water in their neck of the woods from the Stewart River down through Dawson. I can't really speak to their sampling, but I know that they're looking as well. Anyway, the other thing I would say is that this is a very, very serious situation, very political in nature now, but the Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation are taking this very seriously at a local level. I would say that across the watershed and downstream, there are minimal concerns, if you go very far down the river.

George Donart - I'm wondering, what cyanide breaks down into and if there is monitoring for those breakdown products as well?

Lars Jessup, Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, Biologist

I'm not a chemist by any means. I have been told by the team that thiocyanate and cyanate are two of the products that are of concern, the monitoring programs are aware of those as well and they're monitoring for those at all the stations downstream, because cyanide breaks down fairly quickly when it's exposed to oxygen and UV light. It fairly quickly breaks down into whatever byproducts it breaks down into, but the monitoring program is tracking those as well. Just letting everybody know and YDRFA know, thanks for reaching out. If you want to get in touch with anybody at Na-Cho Nyak Dun for more details or more information than just reach out to me and I can connect you.

Organizational Reports:

Elizabeth McDonald, Council of Yukon First Nations

I could give a little update on last week, Marina and I for the Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance and CYFN, we were out in the field doing a few stops, so we left Whitehorse. Things were warm and water levels are a little on the high side and then we travel through to the Nordenskiöld River, where water was about average. Little Salmon Carmacks said that previous week they'd been out doing aerial surveys and they've seen quite a few Chinook quite a ways up that system, which was really good news because for quite a few years there's been, like last 20 years or so, there's been quite a few beaver dams and stuff have really impacted that system. We weren't expecting them to be able to get that high up, so that was great news to hear. Then we stopped at Tatchun River, where Little Salmon Carmacks was actually hosting a youth Fish Camp, they had gotten sockeye salmon from BC, and they were smoking them but because there was a bunch of youth there, we hauled them across the river with us and they got to cross a rather fast flowing river, which was fun. Then some of the kids went and helped Marina set the water temperature logger and some of us stayed. One of the girls, she was able to catch a fry, I think was a long nose sucker just in her hands. There was an eagle around and it was just a really beautiful warm day. On the way back when the kids went first little swim, so they definitely learned some stuff about crossing swift water, which was good and great time. Then we stopped at McQuesten River, downstream of where that cyanide spill is, and things looked really good. We were moving the temperature logger and water had definitely come down since the spring because our water temperature logger was up and dry out of the water, so we moved it in deeper, but it looked nice. I didn't see any fish, which is what I was looking for. I've been there many times and never seen any fish, and then we went on to the North Klondike River, really close to Dawson and the gain water temperature monitor. While we were there, we saw a female carcass, a Chinook carcass and it was a really good sign, she didn't have any eggs inside her. We could smell her before we could find her and we got her. Seeing her was such a good confirmation that there are Chinook out there. They are making it to their spawning grounds and they are spawning, hopefully successfully. That was a nice highlight of our trip. We got to Dawson and Tr'ondek Hwech'in was hosting a research land confluence meeting, where they bring researchers in. A little bit of back and forth education between different knowledge systems and way of approaching research and involving community and making sure there's benefits for the First Nation citizens themselves and provide opportunity. Researchers talk directly to First Nation citizens. We were there for a couple of days. While we were there, Marina mostly but I got to help a little bit, was working and

helping with Tr'ondek Hwech'in for their Klondike sonar. So a couple of days ago a beaver came and chewed through the cable, the things you have to put up with it, if you feel camp sometimes. So Kwanlin Dun happened to have an extra one, so we brought that up with us. Marina and Huey went out and connected everything and had it going. When we showed up on Friday, as we're about to head out of town, there was a slight glitch on one of the computers or one of the sonars. We were trying to fix it in the pouring rain, but it was a good trip. The river there has changed so much, just with the last couple of years of really dramatic flooding. It's actually eroded the one bank to the point where there used to be a road on the far shore, and I would ride my bike and go swimming on that road quite frequently when I lived in Dawson and that road's gone. It was a single lane dirt road. It's really changed the river and the dynamics there. So making this sonar site a little bit more difficult than it used to be. Just wanted to share some of the river conditions and the work that's going on in this side.

Community level reports:

ALASKA

Y5abc&d

Eagle:

Ruby Becker (Report read by Grace) - I'm reporting in for Ruby in Eagle, she wasn't able to make the call today and she sent me her report. It reads, water levels are still rising in Eagle. Last week, it rained every day and it is no longer so dangerously low. Only one household has a subsistence net in for non-salmon. It is difficult to fish due to rising water and loss of debris. Despite the difficult conditions, this household was able to feed themselves and elders some fresh whitefish and pike. Another household is waiting for debris in the river to subside before putting their 4-inch net in. People are picking raspberries and harvesting gardens. Most community members have gardens that have done well this year so they can feed each other that way as well.

Fort Yukon:

Kara'lissa Tremblay – No one is fishing. Our weather, we've been having rainy, cold weather. The waters been low, looks like it's coming up.

Tanana:

Stan Zuray (emailed report in from the Rapids) - He reports that water levels have been low and mostly drift free. All camps that were opened have either closed or are in process of closing for the season. Occasionally enough will be put in for daily people food or for the few dogs anyone has. Nobody has really put up any fish for winter and no meaningful amount is expected to be put up. No sign of any front runner Fall Chum yet, but as stated, so little fishing is taking place, hard to know much. Summer Chum caught are mostly all white flesh, watermarked fish, and not used for people food.

District Y4a&c:

Allakaket:

Pollock Simon – Nobody fishing here, earlier somebody fish for cutting and one crew went outside to fight fire. Some people starting to work on housing and hardly anybody really interested in fishing here. Fishing for King salmon and Chum is closed. I don't think anyone wants to put their net in. We get dog food, we have dogs, we have a little whitefish net in there. We catch pike and little whitefish except for yesterday. It has been raining lots early July and the water raised, but now it's cleared up and the water is high, but it's down now.

Anvik:

Ken Chase - I've been out of the loop quite a bit this year on fishing. I haven't been to make many of the calls. I'm interested in reports from the Innoko, the Bonasila, the Anvik River Area but I can get that in writing later from Fish and Game or federal authorities there. I was up the Anvik River about 30 miles, 3

days ago and just checking on what's on the river. There's lots of spawned out Pink salmon on the bars. No sign of any other wildlife, no bears or any other animals on the river other than seagulls. The Chum salmon probably already spawned out and washed away, but the river is high for this time of the year. I'd also like to get some knowledge from somebody in the departments of the possibility or if there's any talks about artificially spawning some of these streams for testing. I haven't heard anything on that, but it's been talked about in this area and I'm kind of wondering if that's in the mix to try to get enhancement pack for our salmon. It seems like all we're doing is sitting on the bank and hoping. We don't know why the rivers on the North of the Kuskokwim are bad, and why Kuskokwim got fish back so quickly and how did they do that? A lot of these things have not been brought to the public. I'd like that to come out and especially like to come out in the Western Interior meetings when they have some pretty good discussion on that.

Deena Jallen, ADF&G Summer Season Fishery Manager

Thanks Ken, for that question. I'll take a stab at just answering part of that initially and then hopefully other folks can help me out. Considering artificial propagation of salmon and streams is a big issue. That's something I think a lot of people have been talking about lately specifically for Chinook salmon, would it be good to do hatcheries or do more restoration or enhancement projects. That's certainly something that is getting a lot of discussion and a lot of attention. There's a lot of things to consider with that. There's a lot of downstream effects of putting fish into streams artificially. What will that do to the population and to the genetics of the future of the salmon in any given stream. It's a good topic to bring up and to keep thinking about as we go forward.

Holly Carroll, USFW Yukon River Area Manager

Ken, you bring up a great issue and that you know you're saying we're just sitting around waiting to figure out what happened here. We are conducting a lot of studies, but we're not even scratching the surface. We have a lot of questions right now about why the Chums are not going into the Anvik and the Andrafski in the way that they used to. We don't have right now, ongoing research that would address that per se. Here at Fish and Wildlife Service, we're kind of thinking is it time to do a radio telemetry study on Chums again. We're doing one for Chinook till we hurry up and pivot and do one for Chums. One of the problems with that is that those studies cost almost \$1,000,000 a year, and they're complicated to design. We already talked with Fish and Game about how we can leverage resources, work together and address some of these Chum concerns because we've had these Chinook concerns, we've got some important Chinook research going on all throughout the drainage. We're looking at their health, we're looking at where they go with the telemetry study. We're looking at ichthyophonus and how many of them might be dying. We're gaining a ton of insight, but unfortunately it does take time. We got to collect the data, then we got to analyze it. That takes a year and then like you say, we got to get it out to the public at these meetings. One thing I wanted to point out is that you know YRDFA has been doing a great job of trying to create a forum just for sharing the science and the results because we tend to talk about management a lot or at the RAC meetings, there tends to be a lot of proposals to review and things like that. YRDFA did a 2-day Science symposium last year where a lot of cool projects that we have all throughout the drainage were presented at that. Maybe Serena could talk about if they plan to do that again this Winter. I can't remember if that was funded or not. For the RAC meetings, if you guys need to find time on your agendas to allow a little bit more time to present out on our science and results. I think that would be good because those agendas get full, and we often don't have time to present the results as well as give a summary of how the season went. If you want to find more forums for having just, let's all share the results of what we're learning from ongoing studies. I think that'd be useful. I put that out there for maybe YRDFA to be thinking about and for RAC chairs to be thinking about. Like, how can we have a separate day just to share results? Because these other meetings, they just don't have time for it.

Serena Fitka - Yes, we try to provide research updates during our YRDFA Board Meeting and also during our Preseason meeting. It's good to keep an eye out for those dates and like Holly said, we do have the symposium for Yukon River Science symposium. It's going to be in this third year, it's been virtual. This year we're looking at an in person 2-day symposium in the Anchorage, that's going to be in February. Our

tentative dates are the week of February 3rd, our alternative dates will be February 10th. That will be in Anchorage and we're only looking at Yukon River research that's being conducted. For our Board meeting and our Preseason meeting, that's usually end of April. We do have considered dates selected already. YRDLA Full Board Meeting will be in Fairbanks this year and that will be April 22nd and 23rd. Our preseason meeting will be April 24th and 25th. Both of these meetings will be at Pike's Waterfront Lodge.

Robert Walker – Ken's report is the same thing what I did, I went up 25 miles up the river. All there was Pink salmon carcasses. I was surprised too, there was no bear tracks or any when we stopped in certain places to look for certain tracks or anything. We seen one wolf there and he was fishing at the river there and I was kind of surprised. Another thing too, we went down to the mouth of the river and fished sheefish. We caught 10 sheefish with rod and reel. I had a conference with two people, one from Nulato and one from Koyukuk we were talking about that. There is something they never heard before that there is a sheefish spawning ground up the Koyukuk River? Is that correct Holly or can somebody answer that?

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G Yukon Drainage Management Area Fisheries Biologist

Yeah. Sheefish spawn on the Alatna. There was a sheefish spawning area on the Alatna River and about this time of the year, sheefish that are going to spawn are making their way up the Koyukuk River.

Pollock Simon, Allakaket - They'll be coming up the river pretty soon, if not already.

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G Yukon Drainage Management Area Fisheries Biologist

They'll linger up around the mouth of the Alatna. They usually spawn when the water starts getting cold, usually late September, early October. Then they'll linger for a bit and move on out when the water nears freezing, but you should be able to catch some of these sheefish now. Although, they're broadcast spawners, so they'll usually spawn within a week or two, and so it's one thing about being a broadcast spawner, they just kind of broadcast into the water column. They need to spawn over kind of differentially sized gravels that will catch the fertilized eggs and the females can spawn thousands of eggs. The one thing about broadcast spawners, you can be early, but you don't want to be late. I've worked on the Kuskokwim and I've seen fish head for spawning areas a month or two, even 2 early, but usually they spawn fairly consistently, both Yukon and Kuskokwim the spawning areas, yet usually consistently late September early October.

Robert Walker - Yes, that is quite interesting. Thanks, this is a lot of information. I think somebody should put that out into the Koyukuk tribes, Koyukuk, Nulato and Huslia because I think they know when to see them, but they don't know where the spawning ground was. This was something that was new to the people that I talked to in our little audio conference. I mean this was Yukon River natives talk, that's what we were doing and they were surprised too. I told them there was another one that goes up in the springtime before the salmon and they're like 4 foot, 5 foot sheefish. They don't know where they go, and I don't know where they go either but we do catch them. So this is something interesting for a food source.

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G Fisheries Biologist, Yukon Drainage Management Area

Randy Brown, he's done almost all the sheefish work on the Yukon. I'm actually going to review in the next couple of days, a manuscript, a report that he's going to submit for publication. I'll look through it and see if there's any maps or anything and try to consolidate what I read. I can't do it right now. I'm leaving town on Saturday, but I'll put it on my To Do List to try to get something together and share with Allakaket, Alatna and Hughes.

Robert Walker – Also Koyukuk and Nulato too, they do fish for sheefish and they do go down to the Nulato River and people come down from Galena to fish at the Nulato River for sheefish. This is something that a food source is kind of working with a freshwater fish. If people know how to get to where they are and to understanding their movements and when they do move from freshwater or saltwater or whatever. I think I'm going to bring this up in our Fall meeting too and Galena, here too, Serena and Holly.

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G Yukon Drainage Management Area Fisheries Biologist

Well, like I said, I'm actually going to start reading through Randy's report here, maybe tomorrow, maybe Thursday. I'm leaving town Saturday, but I'll definitely try to pick out pieces of his report and put something together for you all.

Robert Walker - That would be great. You know, because there will be representatives from up to Koyukuk River down at Galena during our RAC meeting there.

Ken Chase - Just a little bit further on what Robert and them we're talking about and both reports from Randy Brown on sheefish. I'd like that to be included if they could for the Innoko River, since I work with Fish and Wildlife Service and the Innoko River Refuge. I'd like to get something on that too, on the spawning. I know they're spawning up there on the Innoko, so I appreciate that.

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G Yukon Drainage Management Area Fisheries Biologist

What I can do is, I can put together a little summary about the entire Yukon River drainage because they don't spawn in very many places. I think right now there's six documented spawning areas. I can just get a map of where the spawning locations and about what we've learned of their life history. I'm adding it to my To Do List right now.

Serena Fitka - Thank you, Lisa. We could also include that in our newsletter.

District Y3:

Russian Mission:

Basil Larson – There's not much fishing activity. One of the mushers did set his net inside of slough and that's what he needed. I was surprised that there's already no Humpies at all. He was starting trying to target those too. He had gotten enough whitefish in two days or basically a day and a half of soaking his 4-inch net inside of a Creek to feed his dogs for a week. He hasn't been fishing since. Other fishing, there's only hook and line. There was a couple of people that were wanting to go get some Fall fish, but they haven't gotten back to me if they did. Everybody else is in berry picking mode. Water is up higher than it was when Humpies were passing. I just drove through camp on my way here by the beach and there's a lot of water, a little bit sticks floating around in the eddies. Everybody is basically out looking for berries, we have been having a lot of rain, a lot of a lot of wind. We went from Northeast to Southwest wind and it's just been cold. Everybody's waiting for moose season to start. I think couple of people here already got a moose. Passed it around and that's what everybody's working for, so that's pretty much it.

District Y2:

St. Mary's:

Mattie Beans (Emailed report in): Water temp is cool. 48.5° at 12:07 PM Today, One guy went dipping and in 7 hours got one Coho and Humpy over the weekend. Water is up on the Andrafski and Yukon. Andrafski is full of dead Humpies.

Mountain Village:

Stanislaus Sheppard - Nick Andrews just stopped by, they're going inside this river Anunaq to go pick blueberries. He said he wouldn't be able to make the call in. I'm currently calling from Fish Camp right here inside Anunaq. In fact, one of the main rivers for sheefish are here and fish village, Nunvo River, and Hamilton. If they're going to do the sheefish spawning, I'd like that lady to include the Lower Yukon. There's a lot of spawning areas down here in the Lower Yukon River. The water down here has been coming up. It's past the point when it first came up about 12 inches or more. I haven't really heard of anybody out fishing for fish right now. The Mountain Village Test Fishery is in operation, whenever they are lucky enough to catch salmon, when they go out to test fish for Fall Chum, after they do their scale sampling and other stuff. They make announcement to Mountain Community that there is so much fish available that was caught during the test fishery, other than that. The weather's been cold, we've been having

rain. We just had a little break yesterday. Sun was trying to come out earlier but it covered up again. We've been having South, Southwest winds. Everybody is kind of focusing on berry picking right now.

District Y1:

Kotlik:

Marvin Okitkun - Not much to report here. It's been pretty gloomy, grayest months we've ever had. Started mid-July and it's been going on. Had a break in the weather yesterday. People are still trying to go pick berries. There's not much for blueberries here, but they're still picking salmon berries, which is good. Picking raspberries, the low ones, low to the ground. People are trying to go for whitefish, Bering Cisco's. I know somebody got a couple of Fall Chums and the sheefish as bycatch. Other than that, fish swimming up the river. When it calms down, we can see their little wakes going up . Fall season has begun.

Open Discussion / Questions:

Brooke McDavid, Department of Interior Office of Subsistence Management

I just wanted to put a reminder out for folks in the Lower River that the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council or the YK Delta RAC is meeting next week in Bethel, Wednesday through Friday. So that's August 21st through the 23rd and there is a teleconference and a virtual option for folks that want to call in from their home communities and can't make it to Bethel. Every morning, we have an opportunity for public and tribal comments on non-agenda items as long as they're related to subsistence. We'd love people to call in and participate, and of course they can also comment on agenda items and all that info is on the OSM webpage.

Serena Fitka, YR DFA Executive Director

I'll provide a quick update for YR DFA. I just want to let people know that our Watershed Ecosystem Action Plan work ended their field season. They did go up to two areas on the river, the Middle River Yukon and Tanana River area. They did do an assessment of 64 culverts and they did 50 water quality samples in the areas of Nulato and then mutual Manly, Eureka and off the Tanana Road. The field crew did identify multiple additional culverts of potential concern for Yukon salmon fish passage, which was not previously listed in the US Fish and Wildlife Service database. We'll be providing a report and a little more detail update in our upcoming newsletter that will hopefully be coming out within the next month. We'll also be providing updates on this work with the Gravel to Gravel meetings. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. The Steering committee will be meeting in Ruby at the end of September to go over the work that was completed and start selecting priority sites for next season. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Kangas, who's the Project Manager or myself. We'll be happy to answer any questions.

Call ended 2:13 PM