

Yukon River Summer Season Management Considerations

Presented by:

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(ADF&G)

YRDFA

Board Meeting

Anchorage, February 2018



Team Outreach

- Increased focus on tribal consultation and community input
- Subsistence Division staff joined the summer team
- Meetings held in season: Nulato, Grayling, Beaver, Fort Yukon



Team Outreach

- Facebook Page launched
- Community trip with Lt. Governor and Commissioner (funded by TCC):



Hughes, Huslia, Alakaket,
Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk,
Galena, Ruby



2017 Chinook Run

- Expected a drainage-wide Chinook salmon run of 140,000 to 195,000
- Juvenile Salmon research in Bering Sea suggested the run might be even larger
- Post-season reconstructed run size likely about 277,000!



2017 Summer Chum Salmon Run

- Run size expected: 2.4 million summer chum
- Escapement goals and subsistence needs met
- surplus for commercial harvest of up to 1.5 Million
- Post Season run ended up at 3.1 million



2017 Preseason Planning Meeting

Fishermen feedback:

Commercial:

- Y1 and Y2 did not want concurrent subsistence and commercial openings

Gear:

- More king gear (7.5") opportunity and earlier in run when fish quality better

Fishing Schedule:

- Prefer schedule to surgical openings
- Want more notice before openings
- Fishermen can take conservative actions on their own in addition to restrictions imposed by ADF&G

2017 Subsistence Fishery Management

- Goal was to provide more Chinook salmon harvest than 2016 and possibly less restrictions on subsistence fishing
- Before Chinook arrived, 6" gillnets on schedule
- First pulse closed
- Selective gear for summer chum
- 6" reduced windows schedule
- 7.5" regulatory schedule



2017 Summer Chum Commercial Management

- Limited buyer capacity in District 2
- Buyer returned to District 4 (Kaltag live-release fish wheels)
- Selective gear types to start: dip nets, beach seines (live release)
- First gillnet openings limited to Y1 with 5.5" by 30 mesh deep
- 6" or smaller mesh gillnets



2017 Summer Chum Commercial Management

- No sale of Chinook salmon during the summer season
- During first opening in fall season, 168 incidentally-caught Chinook salmon sold
- 99% of Chinook run had passed the Pilot Station sonar project
- Decision reconsidered and Board of Fisheries guidance sought (proposal 232)

2017 Chinook Escapement

Escapement project	Current Goal	2017 Estimate
EF Andreafsky River Weir	2,100 – 4,900	2,970
WF Andreafsky River Aerial	640 – 1,600	942
Anvik River Index Aerial	1,100 – 1,700	1,101
Nulato River Aerial	940 – 1,900	943
Chena River Tower	2,800 – 5,700	4,201*
Salcha River Tower	3,300 – 6,500	4,195*
Estimated spawning escapement in Canada	42,500-55,000	68,315

* Preliminary expanded Tower counts; sonar counts available post season

2017 Summer Chum Escapement

Escapement project	Current goal	2017 Estimate
EF Andreafsky River Weir	>40,000	55,500
Anvik River Sonar	350,000–750,000	415,000
Drainage-wide	500,000–1,200,000	3 Million +

Commercial Harvest

Gear	Summer Chum Harvested	Chinook Released Alive	Chinook Kept for Personal Use
Dip Net & Beach Seine and Y4 manned wheels (selective)	286,400	4,700	
Gillnet/wheels	268,600		5,800
Total	555,000		

(not including any salmon caught in Fall Season)

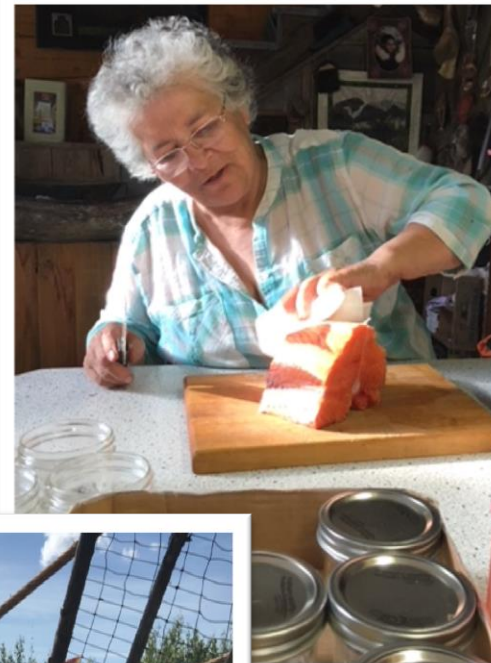
Chinook (all stocks) Subsistence Harvest

Average 2007-2011	2015	2016	PRELIMINARY 2017
44,000	7,300	21,800	37,000

- Includes Chinook received from test fisheries
- Includes Chinook kept from commercial gillnet openings



Experiences from the River



How many fish this year?



2018 Chinook Forecasts

- Juvenile-based forecasts are highest: 236,000 to 298,000
- Standard method is lower: 157,500 to 220,000
- All data points to a Chinook run size similar or slightly smaller than last year
- This could mean a similar management strategy to last year
- Management will be driven by assessment of the run inseason

2018 Summer Chum Forecast

- 2.6 million projected
- Could be similar or slightly smaller run size than last year
- This could mean a similar management strategy to last year
- Management will be driven by assessment of the run inseason

Fishermen Feedback Shapes next season



2018 Upcoming Meetings

- Federal RAC meetings (February/March)
- Statewide Board of Fisheries meeting - 4 Yukon proposals (March 6-9, Anchorage)
- Joint Technical Committee (March 13-15, Whitehorse)
- Yukon River Panel (April 14-17, Anchorage)
- YRDFA Preseason Planning Meeting (April 30, Anchorage)

The most effective tool in conservation is support from the fishermen

Thank you to the fishermen of the Yukon River!



Questions?

Follow us at Yukon River Fishing- ADF&G

