**Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!**

Here is a summary of the 7th, 2019 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 16, 2019. Call lasted 76 minutes. 56 callers participated at 60 minutes into the call.

**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 the US Dept. of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management.

**Media participating:** KZPA radio-Hans @ Fort Yukon,

**Political Representatives participating:** none

**Communities & organizations participating this week: 22**

Alakanuk

Mountain Village

Marshall

St. Marys

Russian Mission

Shageluk

Grayling

Nulato

Huslia

Allakaket

Galena

Ruby

Rapids

Fort Yukon

Eagle

Nenana

Fairbanks

Old Crow

Dawson

Whitehorse

Pelly

Stewart

**Community level reports from Alaska**:

**Alakanuk: Pamela** - Final interviews. Households contacted 25. No fish were caught. Low water, high temps. Softer fish due to the warm water. Other subsistence activities are being done. 10 or 18 people interviewed have met their needs. People had a good season. They would like to see 2 openings per week. They wish for better timing but all in all it was a great season.

**Mt. Village: Nita** - Most everyone is 70% or more done with their subsistence needs. Some are still waiting for fall chum to come in. Only one person fished last week that I interviewed. One King had a puss boil at the tail. People said they did better this year. They liked this year better because they were able to use gill nets instead of dip nets. Someone caught a sturgeon in their net while commercial fishing. Water level dropped a lot. This is the lowest I’ve seen it.

**St. Marys: Bill Alstrom -** Not much to report. Just listening in.

**Marshall: Norma Evan** - Spoke with 11 families. No one fished. Most families reported to be done or waiting for fall chum. People are starting to berry pick. Little to no drift. We saw some (dead?) summer chum floating by this week. We retrieved them. They didn’t have any eyes or net markings. They still had eggs. A bear floated up too. The water is very low.

**Russian Mission: Basi**l - Everyone I talked to said they are done with summer salmon. 1 camp is an older guy and he lost his net with the logs in the spring. The water has dropped enough that he was able to find his net and reset it. He is the only one I know of still fishing. The water is very low. Kids are swimming a lot. Compared to last year, this year was a little better. It was strange for a few reasons. I heard about someone doing studies on salmon carcuses. There are a bunch of chum that spawn in the water near here. Come to Russian Mission and we will bring you to those creeks.

**Shageluk: Arnold Hamilton** - There are probably 3 families that have put in nets and they got everything they needed. But we are all done.

**Grayling:** Everyone is pretty much done. I know one person is still fishing.

**Nulato: Arnold Demoski -** Not much to report. Everyone is pretty much done in Nulato. I don’t think anyone is out fishing. It was a good season. People are satisfied and people got what they needed.

**Huslia: Zoe** - One person had to go 30 miles down river to fish. Some people have been seeing dead salmon floating. Water is pretty low.

**Allakaket: Pollock Simon** - Water is dropping really low. Fishing 20 miles down and have been catching 1 or 2 Kings per day. A couple days ago I caught 8 and 15 yesterday. Not a whole lot of fishing happening here. Weather has been dry. It’s been hot. No rain.

**Galena: Howard -** Yukon has been holding steady. Its 65 degrees. Lots of water logs. A lot of people have reported blue-backs mixed in with the Kings. The blue backs are nice and firm. The reds are soft. Most of the red kings are females, about 80%. Little activity happening. Most people are done.

**Rapids:** **Stan Zuray** - Rapids Teleconference Report 7/15/19

- Water slowly dropping and at lowest all season

- Fishing improved for all fishermen this week with better sized fish than beginning of run. Very few fish close to or over 30 lbs. however.

- Hardly any reports of chum so far with some fishermen that have fished all openings reporting 2 - 6 chum all season. Local chum spawning creeks have no chum in them yet.

- Fish quality good and only one king with Ichthyophonus indicators seen and nothing out of the ordinary otherwise.

- Because of large king numbers every fisher in the area shut down gear for 1/2 to 3/4 of the 2 - 48 hour openings this week.

- Reports of fishers’ conservative needs being met run from almost 50 to 75% done.



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| **Fort Yukon: Andrew:** I interviewed 10 people. 9 were fishing. All were catching something. Those that aren’t harvesting a lot are mostly done. 4 reported being 100% complete. Some comments are: Run seems spotty. Puss Pockets being reported. Catching a lot of smaller sized fish. | | |

**Eagle: Ruby:** I contacted 4 households. Interviewed 3. Only 2 were fishing. Both reported the same as last week. 1 family has reported only catching 30 female all year. No chum yet. They are preparing for Kings to pick up. Eagle is getting some much needed rain. The water is extremely low. It is 68-69 degrees. Fishers hope that management protects the first pulse coming into Eagle. All fishers are from Eagle City. As far as Eagle Village, no one is fishing.

**Nenana: Victor Lord -** I’ve heard people are catching fish. Smoke houses are going and I believe people are happy with the fish. Things are going good.

**Fairbanks:Virgil** - hot and smokey and the river is low.

**Community level reports from Yukon territory Canada**

**Old Crow: William** - We’ve been having some hot weather lately. Lots of smoke. River is low, water is warm. Sonar count is not up to date, but it is very low. Not a lot of people fishing. Some have been harvesting. I don’t know the numbers, but it is smaller than other years.

**Dawson: Natasha** - Not much to report here. We have a resolution in place for all citizens to withdraw for all subsistence fishing. We had a ceremonial harvest and the net was in the water for 4 days. Not much caught. Water low, temps are very warm.

**Whitehorse - Jesse- Elizabeth & Jason Jim** - he heard reports of people catching fish in Carmacks.

**Oliver** - Record lows for water levels. Temperatures in the upper river in Whitehorse are climbing and high.

**Al vonFinster** - water levels in the Pelly and Stewart rivers are very low. It appears that the water is coming from glacier melt or precipitation. I’ve had to change the water monitoring systems to lower them to be able to be in the water, over the summer due to low water levels.

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| **Management Report:**  **ADFG (Summer season): Deena** - Projected king passage at Pilot is 220,000. Canadian origin looks like it will be 95,000. Over 1.3 Summer chum have been counted at Pilot.  Fred Bue - Can we get his report too?  On track to meet the goal. The run is late, so we will have to see.  *(Jeff Estensen with ADFG will give a fall report as the fall season will begin on July 15 /16 in the Y-1 lower river district)*  **ADFG: Jeff -** one of the lowest preseason projections seen and lower than what we put out earlier, warranting caution particularly per commercial fishing. Should meet escapement, subsistence needs-full schedule 7.5” mesh nets, except Porcupine. Based on outlook and Porcupine objectives likely will not be met and early on no subsistence. Cautious approach per commercial. May not hit the commercial fishing lower threshold. Looking to have 1-2 openers for commercial. Will hold off till late July/early August for numbers from test fisheries to assess run strength.  **USFWS: Fred**- fall chum; cautious approach.  **DFO- Fisheries and Oceans Canada : Jesse Trerice**  **Canadian Management Update YRDFA Conference Call – July 16, 2019**  • With the arrival of Chinook salmon at the international border, Canada is implementing early season management measures consistent with the 2019 fishery management strategy.  • Given the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon stock rebuilding process is still underway, coupled with well above average water temperatures observed in the lower Yukon River, a conservative approach to managing Canadian salmon fisheries is required.  • A key Canadian fishery management priority will continue to be to ensure that large, Chinook salmon successfully reach their spawning grounds in order to support future returns.  • Canadian fishery management measures are relying on information collected by Pilot Station and Eagle enumeration programs, Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest share allocations and associated harvest in Alaska to inform upcoming fishery opportunities.  • Upstream of the international border, several assessment programs will monitor the Chinook salmon run this season. These will include Porcupine Sonar, Pelly River Sonar, Big Salmon River Sonar, the Whitehorse Rapids Fishway, as well as an experimental project on the Klondike River near Dawson funded by the Yukon River Panel’s Restoration and Enhancement Fund.  • The Porcupine River Sonar located near the community of Old Crow has been operational since June 27 and has counted 273 Chinook salmon as of July 14.  • The Pelly River Sonar located near the community of Pelly has been operational since July 10 and has counted 333 Chinook salmon as of July 14.  • Additional Information from Canadian assessment projects will be shared in the coming weeks as it becomes available.  ***Questions and discussion:***  *Victor-on fall chum run-Fred/cautious approach, low numbers. Is that for sure, or possible later fish? Jeff-uncertian yet, pretty wide range 500k-750k. Really don/t know yet. The summer chum-fall chum numbers relationship may not hold as well during this years weak summer chum run.*  *Arnold: read an article on temps, When done. Venessa-over the next year.*  *Fred in Mt. Village-maybe one day we’ll be fishing for sturgeon. Have heard of one or two in the past. Denna- Bonnie had mentioned back in 2005. Yukon is the very northern extent for that species. Would love to look at otoliths.*  *William-lot of noise on phone today-what are the Porcupine management plans? Jeff-continued inability to meet the escapement goal. Subsistence to be closed.*  Call ended at: 2:16pm  **Contact info for ADFG YR Summer Season Manager; call 907/267-2324**  **Contact info for ADFG YR Fall Season Manager; call 907/949-1320** | | |

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