

Yukon River Drainage



Fisheries Association
2023 Annual Meeting
Egan Center - Anchorage, Alaska
October 2 & 3, 2023

To Protect and Promote all wild fisheries and traditional cultures within the Yukon River Drainage.

From the Director

September 14, 2023

Greetings YRDFA Delegation,

It is wonderful to be able to get the full YRDFA delegates to the Annual Meeting. It has been an extremely strenuous effort to receive the funding for our 33rd Annual Meeting, but we are all together to work on important issues that our communities are facing due to the fisheries disasters.

The staff has been working very hard getting ready for the Annual Meeting and providing me with guidance to prepare for such an important meeting. Attached is the booklet with the agenda and supporting documents in order of the agenda items. We wanted to make sure that the booklet included all that is needed to have a successful meeting.

I look forward to the four new staff members we hired to meet each one of you. We value your time and energy you all put into making YRDFA successful.

Stay travels and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

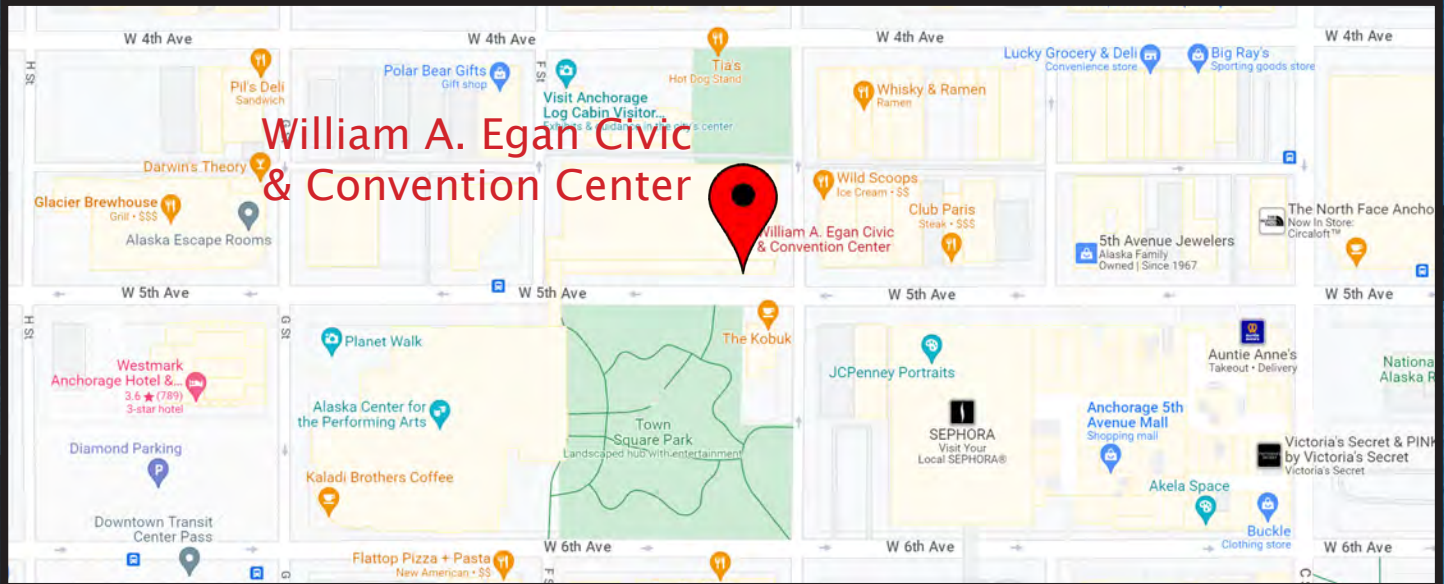
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Serena Fitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Serena Fitka
Executive Director

Directions to the meeting

This years YRDFA Annual Meeting will be held at **Egan Center** in downtown Anchorage, Alaska.



Egan Center Address:
555 W 5th Avenue

The meeting is downstairs in the
Lower Summit Level in Room #13 & 14

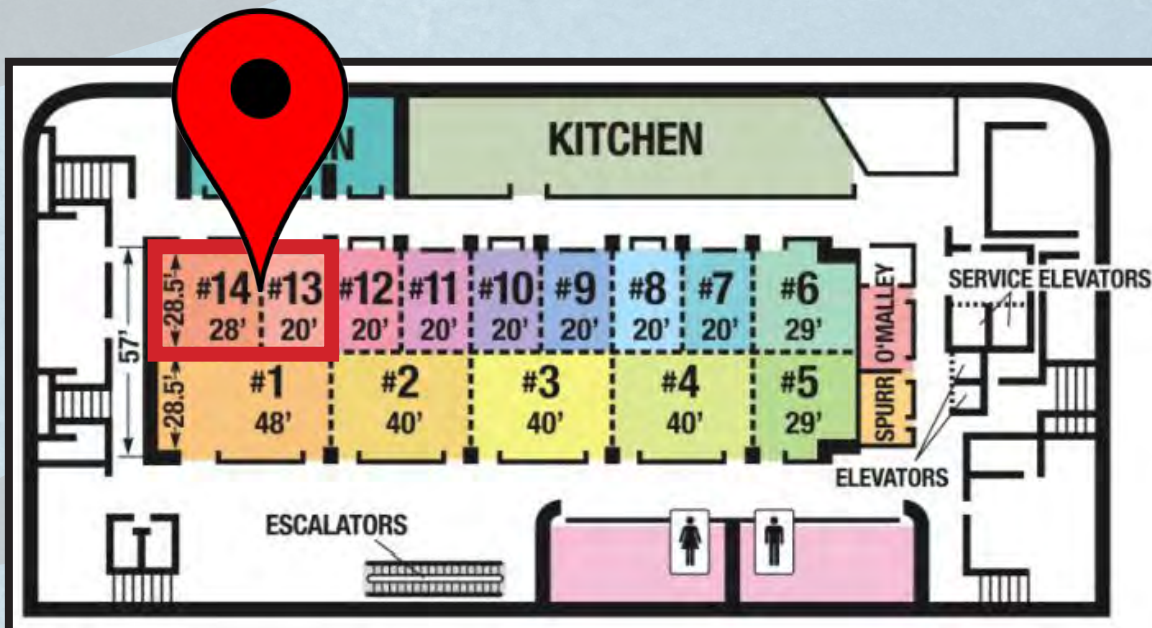


Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Board Contacts | 2 |
| Strategic Plan | 3 |
| By-Laws | 6 |
| Agenda | 12 |
| Board Meeting Minutes | |
| Annual Board Meeting - April 2022 | 14 |
| Special Board Meeting - December 2022 | 18 |
| Financial Report | 20 |
| Program Report | |
| 2023 Staff Report | 21 |
| New Business | |
| 2023 Preliminary Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Review | 26 |
| Resolutions | |
| a. 2023-01 - Call to Reduce Yukon River Chum Salmon Discards in Area M Fishery | 33 |
| b. 2023-02 - Support the Protection of Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery | 34 |
| c. 2023-03 - Reduce Salmon output of Private Nonprofit Corporation Hatchery (PNP) Production within Alaska | 36 |
| d. 2023-04 - Support Yukon River current Interim Management Goals of 42,500-55,000 for one full life cycle | 37 |
| e. 2023-05 - 2022-2023 Extending Yukon River Fisheries Disaster Declaration Request | 38 |
| f. 2023-06 - Protecting the Yukon River: Opposing Oil & Gas Development in the Yukon Flats | 40 |
| YRDFA Staff Contact Information | 42 |



YRDFA Board Contact List

YRDFA Board Members

| <u>District</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Community</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Coastal | Lester Wilde | Hooper Bay |
| Y1, Seat 1 | Stanley Pete | Nunam Iqua |
| Y1, Seat 2 | Allen Hanson | Alakanuk |
| Y1, Seat 3 | Paul Andrews | Emmonak |
| Y2, Seat 1 | Bill Alstrom | St. Marys |
| Y2, Seat 2 | Mike Peters | Marshall |
| Y2, Seat 3 | Stanley Sheppard | Mountain Village |
| Y3, Seat 1 | Alfred Demientieff Jr. | Holy Cross |
| Y4, Seat 1 | Fred Huntington Sr. | Galena |
| Y4, Seat 2 | Richard Burnham | Kaltag |
| Y5, Seat 1 | Charlie Wright | Tanana |
| Y5, Seat 2 | Brooke Woods | Rampart |
| Y6, Seat 1 | Dorothy Shockley | Manley Hot Springs |
| Y6, Seat 2 | Victor Lord | Nenana |
| Koyukuk River | Polluck Simon Sr. | Allakaket |
| Flats, Seat 1 | Jan Woodruff | Eagle |
| Canadian | James McDonald | Whitehorse, YT |

Alternate Board Members

| <u>District</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Community</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Coastal Alt 1 | Richard Tuluk | Chevak |
| Coastal Alt 2 | Vacant | |
| Y1, Alt 1 | Marvin J. Okitkun | Kotlik |
| Y1, Alt 2 | John Strongheart | Alakanuk |
| Y2, Alt 1 | Rex Nick | Pilot Station |
| Y2, Alt 2 | William Riley | Pitka's Point |
| Y3, Alt 1 | Basil Larson | Russian Mission |
| Y4, Alt 1 | Vacant | |
| Y4, Alt 2 | Robert Walker | Anvik |
| Y5, Alt 1 | Julie Hyslop | Tanana |
| Y6, Alt 1 | Philip Titus | Minto |
| Y6, Alt 2 | Kathleen Demientieff | Nenana |
| Koyukuk River | Darrell Vent | Huslia |
| Flats, Alt 1 | Rochelle Adams | Beaver/Ft. Yukon |
| Canadian | Carl Sidney | Telin, YT |



YRDFA Strategic Plan

I. Mission

YRDFA's mission is to protect and promote all wild fisheries and traditional cultures within the Yukon River drainage.

II. Vision & Core Values

Vision

Our vision is for a healthy and sustainable ecosystem with wild salmon fisheries and other resources for all people living along the Yukon River. We seek a set of fisheries management policies and protocols that are the product of integrated work by all stakeholders and which promote sustainability.

Core Values

- Sustain wild salmon fisheries and other natural resources in the Yukon River watershed;
- Maximize fishing opportunity for people living along the Yukon River;
- Promote understanding, communication and cooperation between fisheries users;
- Fair play, equity and sharing;
- Empower people and build their capacity to participate in fisheries management decision-making;
- Assist the people and the natural resources they depend on;
- Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

III. Current Issues and Problems

The three key issues facing the Yukon River region at present are a declining salmon run, the lack of a coordinated, conservation-based fisheries plan for the Yukon River, and threats to community welfare from declining subsistence and commercial catches.

Chinook salmon returns are currently low on the Yukon River. The resultant declines in subsistence and commercial harvest threaten community welfare as sources of food and income are reduced or eliminated. The current management system does not address management of subsistence fisheries, as well as the needs of rebuilding the stocks, in these times of shortage. There are strong divisions and conflict between people and organizations from different areas, user groups and gear types. There is no river-wide structure, which includes all impacted stakeholders, including the tribes, for resolving conflicts. A lack of information about salmon biology and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, and the perpetuation of misinformation, leads to a lack of understanding of management decisions and the need for conservation.

Yukon River salmon face threats from other fisheries and development. Bycatch of salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery is not sufficiently limited to protect Yukon River stocks from this significant source of mortality. Existing and new mining, oil and gas, road development and pipeline projects pose threats to Yukon River salmon and their habitat. These threats are not adequately analyzed, and many Yukon River residents are not aware of these threats. Multiple issues face Yukon River salmon in the marine environment, including offshore aquaculture and management of federal fisheries. These actions pose significant threats to Yukon River salmon singularly and collectively.

In addition, climate change is impacting Yukon River salmon in the marine and in-river environment. Limited information is available about how climate change is affecting Yukon River salmon. Yukon River communities are not strongly engaged in efforts to develop national and international policies and actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Yukon River villages face broad economic and social problems including alcohol and drug abuse, suicide, outmigration, domestic abuse and loss of culture and identity. Traditional knowledge is being lost as the holders of this knowledge pass away. Alternate economic opportunities for cash income are limited in Yukon River communities, causing hardship in years when commercial salmon fisheries are limited. Alternate food sources to provide substitutes for salmon in time of shortage have not been fully developed. Few Yukon River residents are employed in fisheries management jobs.

IV. Strategic Goals & Targets

Goal 1: Reduce river-wide conflict and coordinate a river-wide approach to fishers' and tribes' involvement in sustainable fisheries management.

Objectives

1. Develop and begin to implement a river-wide fisheries management approach for the Yukon River focused on rebuilding and maintaining a healthy Yukon River salmon fishery that has buy-in from all stakeholders including tribes;
2. Continue in-season teleconferences and fishery meetings to provide venues for coordinated, grass roots approaches to fisheries management;
3. Assess and adjust YR DFA structure and processes to ensure coordination with all key stakeholders.

Goal 2: Reduce threats to Yukon River salmon and their habitat throughout their lifecycle.

Objectives

1. Reduce marine mortality by getting management measures in place to limit Chinook and chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery;
2. Advocate for protection of Yukon River salmon in existing and new mining, oil and gas, road development and pipeline projects;
3. Advocate for protection of Yukon River salmon in the marine environment, including advocating against offshore aquaculture, hatchery production and monitoring federal fisheries management;
4. Address the impacts of climate change on Yukon River salmon through research and monitoring, and advocate for policies which will reduce climate change impacts;
5. Reduce marine debris and contamination throughout the Yukon River watershed.

Goal 3: Preserve the subsistence way of life and traditional/subsistence cultures of the Yukon River.

Objectives

1. Collect, document and compile Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in a format in which it can be utilized in management decisions;
2. Collect and facilitate collection of subsistence harvest data to ensure management has accurate subsistence information on which to make decisions and to document changing harvest patterns and uses;
3. Create opportunities for Elders and youth to share and utilize TEK;
4. Provide resources for communities to develop alternate fisheries and food sources in times of salmon shortages to ensure community survival;
5. Develop alternate economic opportunities for villages to provide cash income in times of salmon shortages when commercial fisheries are curtailed;
6. Provide resources for communities to utilize renewable energy sources at fish camps and promote their ongoing success;
7. Continue and increase local hire programs to provide jobs for local residents in fisheries management.

Goal 4: Educate and provide accurate information to all Yukon River residents about salmon biology, management on the Yukon River, the Yukon River Salmon Agreement and issues affecting Yukon River salmon and their habitat.

Objectives

1. Include education sessions at every meeting YRDFA hosts (pre-season planning, annual meeting, etc.);
2. Provide accurate and current outreach about the salmon fisheries via paper newsletter and/or electronic news distribution;
3. Provide information and training to all board members, youth and other key village leaders to actively participate in fisheries activities, processing, jobs and civic engagement;
4. Improve understanding between upper and lower river Alaskans and Canadians through educational exchanges; involve 5-6 new fishers each year in Alaska/Canada exchange and 3-5 people in intra-Alaska exchange; ensure participants bring lessons learned to their communities and the Yukon River Panel;
5. Increase use of social media, measure effectiveness and adjust methods as appropriate;
6. Develop new outreach strategies as needed to keep people involved and supportive of a coordinated approach to sustainable fisheries management along the Yukon River.

V. Internal Capacity Needs

To meet these strategic goals YRDFA needs to develop the following internal capacity needs:

Fundraising

1. Expand the diversity and reliability of funding sources;
2. Develop and follow a fundraising plan;
3. Maintain relationships and renew current sources of funding;
4. Seek new ways to fundraise;
5. Determine best use of staff time for fundraising activities and designate and train responsible staff for fundraising/grant writing;
6. Train current staff for organizational marketing;
7. Assess best use of board resources for fundraising and increase board participation in fundraising;
8. Hire experienced contractors or new staff with fundraising skills to conduct fundraising activities when appropriate.

Membership

1. Develop a program to engage current and new Yukon River residents in YRDFA;
2. Improve services for current members of YRDFA;
3. Develop new ideas for bringing new people into YRDFA's programs and membership such as youth, tribes, municipalities, stakeholder organizations and others off the river;
4. Develop programs for integrating youth in the organization;
5. Evaluate effectiveness of membership program and re-design it as appropriate;
6. Develop a way to engage Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau residents and/or people nationwide.

Evaluation

1. Develop evaluation process for YRDFA goals and projects;
2. Evaluate current projects utilizing process
3. Gather information throughout lifecycle of projects.



By-Laws

BY-LAWS OF THE YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE ONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and DELEGATION

A.1. The powers of the association shall be exercised by a perpetuating Board of Directors qualified in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation. There shall be sixteen (16) Directors on the Board.

A.2. The Board of Directors shall be chosen from amongst a thirty (30) member Delegation of the Association representative of the diverse users of salmon in the Yukon River drainage. Salmon users in the drainage include those under the category of subsistence user, commercial user / small processor, sportfish user and large processor.

There are nine membership districts as defined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) as follow:

Coastal District: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y- 1: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y-2: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y-3: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y-4: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y-5 B &C: As defined by ADF&G Management

Y-6: As defined by ADF&G Management and subdistrict 5-A and the remainder of the Tanana River drainage.

Koyukuk River drainage: as defined by ADF&G management

Yukon Flats / 5-D: that portion of the Alaska Yukon River drainage defined as Subdistrict 5-D by ADF&G management and including the tributaries that flow into said portion.

There will be two delegates from the Canadian headwaters of the Yukon River which include that portion of the Yukon River drainage above the U.S. border.

Delegates shall be apportioned as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Coastal District: | 3 delegates |
| Y- 1 District: | 5 delegates |
| Y-2 District: | 5 delegates |
| Y-3 District: | 2 delegates |
| Y-4 District: | 4 delegates |
| Y-5 District: | 3 delegates |
| Y-6 District: | 4 delegates |
| Koyukuk River | 2 delegates |
| Yukon Flats / 5-D | 2 delegates |
| Canadian headwaters | 2 delegates |

A.3. To be eligible to be appointed to a delegate seat, a person can be nominated by the Board of Directors. A nominee must live and/or fish in the Yukon River districts and must live in the same district in which they are nominated for a seat. A nominee does not have to be a YRDFFA member. All nominees will be notified of their nomination and YRDFFA will receive confirmation of acceptance or rejection of the nomination. If confirmation cannot be obtained, the nominee will not be eligible for appointment to the Board. Board member appointments must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board. Once elected, winners must become members and pay their appropriate dues within 30 days or forfeit their election.

Current serving Board members, whose term is ending, can self-nominate, if they wish, to retain their seat. If the seat is open, the prior Board member can nominate a new potential Director from their Fishing District for Board approval. If no nominee is forthcoming from the previous Director, the YRDFFA Board and staff will seek a qualified candidate for the open position that can gain approval from the full Board.

Board members and alternates will be appointed by the board according to the following apportionment:

Coastal District: 1 Board member and 2 Alternates

Y- 1 District: 3 Board members and 2 Alternates

No more than two Board members may be residents of the same village. Furthermore, if two Board members are from the same village, then no more than one alternate may be from that same village.

Y-2 District: 3 Board members and 2 Alternates

No more than two Board members may be residents of the same village. Furthermore, if two Board members are from the same village, then no more than one alternate may be from that same village.

Y-3 District: 1 Board member and 1 Alternate

Y-4 District: 2 Board members and 2 Alternates

One Board member shall be a salmon user in subdistrict 4-A and one board member shall be a salmon user in subdistrict 4-B or 4-C.

Y-5B&C District: 2 Board members and 1 Alternate

One Board member shall be a salmon user in subdistrict 5-B and one board member shall be a salmon user in subdistrict 5-C.

Y-6 District: 2 Board members and 2 Alternates

Koyukuk River: 1 Board member and 1 Alternate

No more than one board member and / or one alternate may be from the same village.

Yukon Flats / 5-D: 1 Board member and 1 Alternate

No more than one board member and / or one alternate may be from the same village.

Canadian: 1 Board member and 1 Alternate

Both the board member and alternate shall be appointed by the Yukon Salmon Committee and are non-voting.

Beginning in 2018 the YR DFA Board added two young adult fisher advisory positions to the Board. These are non-voting positions and one member each is chosen to represent up-river and down-river communities, to bridge the transition of YR DFA leadership into the future and to bring young adult fishers perspectives and views into YR DFA's efforts.

There are therefore 17 members of the Board (who serve two or three-year terms, see paragraph F. below), and 15 Alternates (who serve two-year terms), and 2 young adult fisher advisors (who serve 2 year terms). Therefore at each annual selection, there will be a minimum of 14 delegate seats open with the maximum number of delegate seats determined by how many Board seats are open in that particular year. The Canadian board member and alternate shall be appointed by the Yukon Salmon Committee.

B.1. The Board of Directors shall administer the affairs of the corporation; control all expenditures and property of the corporation; select, compensate, support and evaluate the Executive Director to whom administrative and accountability is delegated; fill vacancies on the Board and among its officers; and act for its interests in any way not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and these By-laws.

B.2. The Board of Directors or the Association may not take actions to benefit one user group of the Association at the expense of others in the Association. YR DFA endeavors to balance all user groups over the long-term, but every specific action may not always benefit all user groups.

B.3. All motions of the Board or of the delegation can only pass with unanimous consent of all Board members or delegates present. Persons may abstain from voting on a particular issue but must state their reason for doing so.

C.1. The Board of Directors and the Alternates (i.e. the full Delegation) shall meet at least once on an annual basis at an annual general membership meeting. For the Annual Meeting the voting body is the full Delegation. This is the only time the full Delegation can act as a body. A quorum of at least fifteen of the thirty delegation members (including temporary voting delegates cf. section C.2. below) must be present. In addition the lower Yukon or upper Yukon area (cf. section A.2. above) respectively must have at least four of its fifteen delegates (including temporary voting delegates) present. The location and date of the annual membership meeting shall alternate annually between a lower river village (Coastal District to Y-3) and an upper river village (Y-4 to Y-6, the Koyukuk River and the Yukon Flats / 5-D) so as to foster participation in the affairs of the Association by salmon users of the various areas of the Yukon River drainage. The annual membership meeting shall always be held in a village within the Yukon River drainage, pending available funds. Regional and urban hubs may provide alternate sites if necessary.

C.2. In the event that none of the named elected delegates (Board member or Alternate) for a particular District are in attendance at an Annual Meeting a temporary voting delegate may be selected to represent the District for the annual meeting. Person(s) from the District in question may select one person from amongst their number and that person shall be seated as a temporary voting delegate. If the person(s) cannot agree on a single mutually agreeable choice then no temporary voting delegate for that District shall be seated for that annual meeting.

D. The Board of Directors shall meet at other times upon call by the Co-Chairs or by any six (6) Directors with seven (7) days notice to each Director, as funding permits or by teleconference. Board of Directors meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order only in the absence of any Board Policy or regulation defining other parliamentary procedures. A quorum shall be a majority of the current listing of Directors. In the event that none of the named elected delegates (Board member or Alternate) for a particular district are able to attend a called meeting, a temporary voting delegate may be selected to represent the district for the meeting. The temporary voting delegate must be approved in advance by at least one of the Co-Chairs.

If a Director cannot attend a meeting it is his/her responsibility to select an Alternate from amongst the Alternates for the District. In selecting an alternate, the Director has the prerogative to choose who he/she wishes from amongst the Alternates for the District unless there is only one Alternate for the District.

In the absence of a Director, the designated Alternate Director (Hereafter Alternate) may as a substitute exercise all duties and responsibilities of a Director only for the meeting in question.

E. The Board of Directors may at their discretion appoint members of the Board as an Executive Committee as necessary to manage the business of the corporation to the extent provided for in Appendix One. Standing and ad hoc committees may be appointed or dissolved by the Board of Directors as the need arises.

F. The Directors shall serve a term of office of one year, two years or three years from the date of their election. The terms of office are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Coastal District (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-1 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-1 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Y-1 (Seat 3) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024 |
| Y-2 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-2 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Y-2 (Seat 3) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024 |
| Y-3 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-4 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-4 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024 |
| Y-5 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-6 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024 |
| Y-6 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024 |
| Koyukuk River (Seat 1) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Yukon Flats / 5-D (Seat 1) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |

Alternates:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Coastal District (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2022, 2025, 2028 |
| Coastal (Seat 2) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-1 (Seat 1) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024, 2026 |
| Y-1 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024, 2026 |
| Y-2 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-2 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Y-3 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-4 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-4 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024, 2026 |
| Y-5 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-5 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Y-6 (Seat 1) | 3 year term | expires 2021, 2024, 2027 |
| Y-6 (Seat 2) | 2 year term | expires 2022, 2024, 2026 |
| Koyukuk River (Seat 1) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |
| Yukon Flats / 5-D (Seat 1) | 2 year term | expires 2021, 2023, 2025 |

G. Vacancies on the Board of Directors or amongst the alternates may occur through resignation, death, incapacitation, imprisonment, lack of attendance or other reasons.

1. Should a member of the Delegation appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while representing YRDFA will be considered for removal.
2. Should a member of the Delegation, while in service, be imprisoned, regardless of conviction, due to charges of domestic violence, sexual assault, or that of a felony will be removed from the board immediately.
3. Should a Director miss two meetings in consecutive order, without being excused by one of the Co-chairs, that Director shall be removed from his/her position and revert to Alternate status. "Missed" meetings include not only meetings which the Director did not attend but also meetings at which an Alternate filled in for the Director in question.
4. The seat from which a Director is removed shall be filled by one of that area's Alternates who received the most votes or shall be filled by the one alternate for that district if there is only one alternate position for that district as identified in section A.3 above.
5. The Alternate selected shall serve out the remainder of that Director's term. The Director who reverted to Alternate status shall fill out the remaining months of the one-year term of the delegate who filled his/her Director's seat.
6. A vacancy for an alternate seat can occur due to either an alternate filling a vacancy on the Board of directors or the resignation, death, incapacitation or imprisonment of an alternate. If the vacancy for the alternate seat occurs prior to December 15th of that term, then a new alternate shall be nominated and appointed through the procedure outlined in section A.3. above. If the vacancy for the alternate seat occurs on or after December 15th of that term, then a person shall be selected to fill that alternate seat (for the remainder of the one-year term) by the Directors for the District in question.

H. Terms of Board members and the alternate delegates shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30th, the length of the term determined by Section F above. The non-Director delegates (Alternates) for a District shall serve for two years from July 1 thru June 30th. These delegates as well as the Board members may run again for open seats for their district.

ARTICLE TWO OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the association shall consist of two (2) Co-Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer (or a Secretary/Treasurer if so desired), each of whom shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Such other officers and assistant officers, as may be deemed necessary, may be elected or appointed by the Board of Directors.
- B. The officers of the association shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors as soon as possible after the elections. The delegates from each district may caucus or vote to select the Board members for their district according to Article One, Section A. Each officer shall hold office from July 1 through June 30th of the following year or longer until his successor has been elected and qualified or until his death or his resignation or his removal in the manner hereinafter provided.
- C. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors with a two-thirds (2/3) majority whenever in its judgment the best interests of the association would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.
- D. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.
- E.1. The two Co-Chairs shall be the principal executive officers of the association subject to the control of the Board of Directors. One Co-Chair shall be selected from amongst the Downriver (Coastal, Y-1, Y-2, Y-3) Board membership and one Co-Chair shall be selected from amongst the Upriver (Y-4, Y-5, Y-6, Koyukuk River, Yukon Flats/5-D) Board membership. Co-Chairs shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board members present from the respective Downriver or Upriver Region.

E.2. Co-Chairs shall, when present, jointly preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and in general shall perform all duties incidental to the position and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time. The Co-Chairs may jointly or severally appoint standing and / or ad hoc committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.

F. In the absence of one of the Co-Chairs, or in the event of his death, inability or refusal to act, the remaining Co-Chair shall perform the joint duties of the Co-Chairs and, when so acting, shall have the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the position or by the Board of Directors.

G. The Secretary shall perform all duties related to the office of Secretary and such other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs and as stated in the board policy manual.

H. The Treasurer shall be entrusted by the corporation to serve as chair of the Finance Committee and fulfill his / her other duties as stated in the board policy manual.

ARTICLE THREE FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the association will be from July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE FOUR WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever notice is required to be given to any Director under the provisions of these By-laws or the Articles of Incorporation or the Statutes of the State of Alaska, a waiver thereof in writing or via fax transmission, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE FIVE AMENDMENTS

A. The By-law committee of the Board of Directors or the Board itself shall make recommendation(s) to amend by-law(s) section(s) with notification(s) mailed to all Directors and Delegates of recommended by-law amendment(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to the upcoming annual meeting. Recommended amendment(s) shall be read and presented to the full Delegation during the annual meeting for their ratification.

B. All by-law amendments will require a one-hundred percent (100%) consensus vote of those Delegates present at the annual meeting. These amendments shall be read and voted on at the annual meeting after having been prepared by the duly appointed by-law Committee or the Board itself.

ARTICLE SIX MEMBERSHIP

A. YRDFA is a membership organization. Categories of membership and dues are determined by the Board of Directors and reviewed periodically.

B. Membership is open to the public and only for individuals wishing to be affiliated with the association.

C. Donors will be classified by the amount that is given to the association. Donors are open to the public. A donor can be from an individual or from a business or organization. All donors will be acknowledged on our website, unless otherwise discussed.

D. Members, when they pay their annual fee, shall indicate which of the six Yukon River (Y) Districts, the Coastal District, the Koyukuk River or the Yukon Flats/5-D they live and fish in.

E. The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any application for membership.

F. At the annual membership meeting discussion and participation by members, Directors and alternates shall be encouraged.

APPENDIX ONE
DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND LIMITATIONS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Item 1: Composition of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of ten members. Composition shall be established as follows: One Board member from each of the nine membership areas of the Yukon River Drainage as defined in Article One, Section A.2., plus one additional member from either District Y-1 or Y-2 with the two Co-Chairs automatically selected to represent their respective districts. Members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the co-chairs and follow guidelines as set forth in the board member policies. The co-chairs will determine criteria for Executive Committee membership.

Item 2: Power of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may, in the absence of the Board, exercise authority for the Board of Directors. Six of the members serving on the Executive Committee, represented in person or by an Alternate, shall constitute a quorum. A one-hundred percent (100%) consensus vote shall be required for the adoption of each motion. In addition, the Executive Committee: 1. May not over turn a motion passed by the Board of Directors. 2. May act on matters of business consistent with Board policy when it is not possible for the Board to meet.

Item 3: Minutes

Minutes of the Executive Committee shall be taken at all meetings and will be mailed to each Director and alternate within ten (10) calendar days after each meeting.

Item 4: Absences and Vacancies

If any member of the Executive Committee is absent for two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Committee without having been excused by one of the Co-Chairs in writing, via fax transmission or by personal communication to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall declare that position vacant. When a vacancy occurs or a member has submitted a written resignation or died, the Board of Directors shall elect a new member to fulfill the unexpired portion of the term.

APPENDIX TWO
NON-PROFIT STATUS

The objects and purposes for which this association is organized are as follows:

- A. To promote educational and social opportunities for the citizens of the State of Alaska, all to be carried on and the objectives thereof not for profit but, rather, exclusively for exempt charitable, civic, educational, scientific, cultural and historical purposes within the meaning of the Alaska Nonprofit Corporation Act and of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now in force or as may hereafter be amended.
- B. To establish communications between all user groups; subsistence, commercial, personal use, sport, and the management agencies to include all state, federal and tribal Governments that have jurisdiction over any activity that affect the fish stocks of the Yukon River drainage whether it be direct or indirect.

--END OF DOCUMENT--



AGENDA

Annual Meeting
Egan Center
Anchorage, Alaska
October 2-3, 2023
convening at 8:30 a.m. daily

ZOOM registration: Click on the link below to register for the meeting. Once you are registered you will receive an email link to the meeting. The same link will be used for both days of the meeting.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcemsqD4pGNennL3V-1_wUHK13lk082wc

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and those concerns not included on the agenda. The board appreciated hearing your concerns and knowledge. The Co-Chairs will identify the opportunities to provide public comments throughout the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. The agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the Co-Chairs.

1. Invocation

- a. Moment of Silence for Alternate Board Member Dick Evans - Galena

2. Call to order

3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

4. Review and Adopt Agenda

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. April 8, 2022 (Annual Meeting)
- b. December 21, 2022 (Special Board Meeting)

6. Elections/Election of Officers

- a. Board of Directors Elections
- b. Alternate Elections
- c. Election of Officers

7. Reports

- a. Board Reports
- b. Financial Report
- c. Program Reports
 - i. Elders Warnings Project Update and Presentation of Videos

8. Public Comment

9. Old Business

- a. 2020 and 2021 Fishery Disaster Updates
ADF&G Deputy Commissioner, Rachel Baker

10. New Business

- a. Yukon River Post Season Fishery Report - ADF&G and USFWS
 - i. Summer Season
ADF&G Yukon Area Summer Season Manager, Deena Jallen
USFWS, Scott Walter
 - ii. Fall Season
ADF&G Yukon Area Fall Season Manager, Christy Gleason
USFWS, Holly Carroll
- b. Yukon River Chinook and Coho Telemetry Project - ADF&G
ADF&G Yukon Summer Season Assistant, Josh Clark
ADF&G Yukon Fall Season Biologist, Bonnie Borba
- c. Yukon River Chinook Salmon Ichthyophonous Project - ADF&G and USFWS
USFWS Fish Biologist, Scott Walker
ADF&G Research Coordinator, Zachary Liller
- d. Status of Yukon River Salmon Genetic Baselines - ADF&G
ADF&G Gene Conservation Lab, Elizabeth Lee
- e. Marine Research Update - ADF&G and Salmon Ocean Ecology Program
ADF&G Salmon Ocean Ecology Program, Sabrina Garcia
- f. Bycatch Update - NPFMC

11. Additional Reports

- a. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission - *Shannon Erhart*
- b. Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee - *Monica Krugier*
- c. Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association - *Ragnar Alstrom*
- d. Bering Sea Fishermen's Association - *Karen Gillis*
- e. Bristol Bay/Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Coalition - *Karen Gillis & Gail Vick*
- f. Alaska Hatchery Overview Presentation - *Gail Vick*

12. Resolutions

- a. 23-01 - Call to Reduce Yukon River Chum Salmon Discards in Area M Fishery
- b. 23-02 - Polluck Fishery Conservation of Yukon River salmon
- c. 23-03 - Reduce Salmon output of Private Nonprofit Corporation Hatchery (PNP)
Production within Alaska
- d. 23-04 - Support Yukon River current Interim Management Goals of 42,500-55,000 for one full
life cycle
- e. 23-05 - 2022-2023 Extending Yukon River Fisheries Disaster Declaration Request
- f. 23-06 - Protecting the Yukon River: Opposing Oil & Gas Development in the Yukon Flats

13. Future Meeting Dates

14. Closing Comments

15. Executive Session

- a. Executive Director Evaluation

16. Adjourn



Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2022

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Invocation

Victor Lord gives invocation.

III. Roll Call

Present: Lester Wilde, Allen Hansen, Paul Andrews, Bill Alstrom, Alfred Demientieff, Fred Huntington, Stan Zuray, Victor Lord, Pollock Simon, Jan Woodruff, James MacDonald

Catherine Moncrieff takes roll call.

Quorum is established.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Allen Hanson makes motion to approve agenda, Mike Peters Seconds.

Motion approved unanimously.

V. Reports

Allen Hansen makes a motion to approve the Financial report given by Richell Carmichael, Alfred Demientieff Seconds.

Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Elections

A. Retained Board Seats (ACTION ITEM)

1. Y4, Seat 2 - Richard Burnham, Kaltag
2. Y6, Seat 2 - Victor Lord, Nenana

Vote to retain Richard Burnham and Victor Lord.

Allen Hansen moves to accept Richard Burnham and Victor Lord to retain their seats,

Mike Peters Seconds.

Vote passes unanimously.

B. Open Board Seats

1. Y1, Seat 3 - Camille Augline, Alakanuk
 - a.) Alternate Paul Andrews, Emmonak
2. Y2, Seat 3 - Michelle Peterson, Mt. Village
 - a.) Y2 District recommends Stanley Sheppard from Mt. Village
3. Y6, Seat 1 - Tim McManus, Nenana
 - a.) Y6 District Alternate retain seat by Dorothy Shockley from Manley Hot Springs

Allen Hanson makes a Motion to approve Paul Andrews for Y1 Seat 3, Alfred Demientieff Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Alfred Demientieff makes a motion to approve Stan Sheppard for Y2 Seat 3, Mike Peters Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Stan Zuray makes a motion to approve Dorothy Shockley for Y6 Seat 1, Mike Peters Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

C. Retained Alternate Seats

1. Coastal, Alt 1 - Richard Tuluk, Chevak
2. Y1, Alt 2 - Marvin Okitkun, Kotlik
3. Y3, Alt 1 - Basil Larson, Russian Mission
4. Y4, Alt 2 - Robert Walker, Anvik

Allen Hanson makes a motion to have Marvin Okitkun to hold Y1 Alternate Seat 1, Mike Peters Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Alfred Demientieff makes a motion to retain Alternate Seats, Marvin Okitkun Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

D. Open Alternate Seats

1. District Y1
 - a.) Alt. 1 - Marvin Okitkun
 - b.) Alt. 2 - Open for recommendations
 - c.) Alt. 3 - Open for recommendations

Allen Hanson makes a Motion to accept John Strongheart moving to Y1 Alternate 2, Mike Peters Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. District Y2

- a.) Alt. 1 - VACANT; Recommendation Rex Nick of Pilot Station, William Riley Jr.
- b.) Y2, Alt 2 - Open for recommendations (Stan Sheppard)

Marvin Okitkun makes a motion to nominate Nick Rex Y2 Alternate Seat 1 and William Riley as Seat 2, Seconded by Alfred Demientieff.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. District Y6

- a.) Alt 1 - Dorothy Shockley; Recommendation Philip Titus, Minto
- b.) Alt 2 - VACANT-; Recommendation Kathleen Demientieff, Nenana

Mike Peters makes a motion to accept both Phillip Titus, Minto and Kathleen Demientieff, Nenana, Jan Woodruff Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

E. Election of Officers

1. Upriver Co-Chair
2. Downriver Co-chair
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Allen Hanson presented a motion to nominate Victor Lord and William Alstrom for Co-chairs, Alfred Demientieff Seconds.

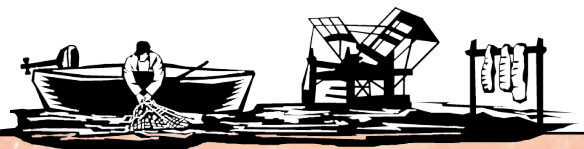
Motion passes unanimously.

Jan Woodruff presents a motion that Stan Zuray remains Secretary, Allen Hanson Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Mike Peters makes a motion to keep Richard Burnham as Treasurer, Alfred Demientieff Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.



Alfred Demientieff makes a motion to amend the agenda, Item F to open an Alternate seat for Koyukuk River and Jan Woodruff, Seconded to add the item to the agenda.

Motion passes unanimously.

Bill Alstrom - Item, additional under Elections, F. For Koyukuk Region.

All in favor to table the vote until more information is gathered, Aye. Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Resolutions

A. Resolution 2022-01: Support the Protection of Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

Mike Peters makes a Motion to approve Resolution 2022-01, Seconded by Alfred Deminietieff Jr.

Motion Passes unanimously.

B. Resolution 2022-02: Support Yukon River current Interim Management Goals of 42,500-55,000 for one full life cycle

Bill Alstrom makes Motion to accept Resolution 2022-02, no one Seconds.

Motion Fails.

C. Resolution 2022-03: Setting specific limits on hatchery production within Alaska and internationally

Stan Zuray makes a Motion to accept the resolution, Seconded by Jan Woodruff.

Motion passes unanimously.

D. Resolution 2022-04: Assessing Interception of Yukon Salmon by Alaska Peninsula Fisheries

Jan Woodruff makes a Motion to Approve the resolution, Stanley Zuray Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

VII. By-law Revisions

Dropped call.

Serena Fitka - trying to establish a quorum.

Victor Lord - I would like to recess until the next date is figured out.

Fred Huntington - I unofficially agree.

Meeting ended 12:41pm

Meeting called back to order on April 19, 2022 at 10:40 am

Roll Call to establish a quorum: Lester Wilde, Stanley Sheppard, Alfred Demientieff Jr., Fred Huntington, Sr., Stan Zuray, Dorothy Shockley, Victor Lord, Pollock Simon Sr., Jan Woodruff, James MacDonald, Marvin Okitkun, Rex Nick, Paul Andrews (excused).

Quorum is established.

Marvin Okitkun makes a Motion to suspend the rules to add the following to the agenda: Seconded by Dorothy Shockley.

Motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Koyukuk District Alternate Elections

- A. Darryl Vent- Huslia & Hugh Bifelt - Koyukuk
- B. Roll Call Vote

Darryl Vent has been appointed.

IX. Resolution 2022-05: Support the Protection of all whitefish species caught in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

Alfred makes a motion to Table the resolution, Seconded by Jan Woodruff.

Resolutions tabled.

X. Update from Director

- A. Submitted an appropriations request form to Murkowski's office in the amount of \$825,000 to develop a citizen Science project for the Yukon River. This would collaborate with communities to gather observational data of spawning streams, fish diseases, environmental conditions to identify areas of critical concern and data gaps.

XI. Closing comments and acknowledgements



Special Board Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2022

I. Invocation

Invocation was given by Co-Chair Victor Lord.

II. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bill Alstrom at 10:00 a.m.

III. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Roll call was given by Catherine Moncrieff and quorum was established at 10:33 a.m.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Stan Sheppard motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Allen Hansen. Agenda approved.

V. Public Comment

Allen Hansen asked if the 2021 Yukon River fisheries disaster was approved.

Dorothy Shockley stated that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Tribal Advisory seat is open for nominations that are due February 3rd. She would like to nominate Serena Fitka.

Darrell Vent commented that the person that will fill the seat needs to be knowledgeable of all the fisheries in Alaska.

Rochelle Adams commented there is a tribal person on the bycatch committee. Rochelle stated the person will need to be supported and taken care of.

Gale Vick commented that Stan Zuray would be a powerful candidate for Board of Fisheries.

Stan Zuray stated he has been asked to fill out an application online. He decided to accept this nomination.

VI. Reports

Director's Update

Congress Approved Fisheries Disaster for 2022 but we need to apply. NOAA provided funding for fisheries disasters in Alaska, working on distribution of funds.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

1. State of Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals

Proposal #63

Stan Zuray made a motion to support proposal 63, 2nd by Allen Hansen. Motion passed.

Proposal #64

Stan Zuray made a motion to NOT support the Proposal 64, 2nd by Stan Sheppard, motion passed.

Proposal #79

Charlie: Makes Motion to support this proposal, Darrel: 2nded
Motion passed

Proposal #80

Stan Zuray makes motion to oppose proposal, seconded by Jan Woodruff. Motion passed to oppose proposal #80.

Proposal #81

Stan Sheppard makes a motion to Support, 2nd by Darrel vent

Unanimous against the motion, motion failed.

Proposal #82

Stan Sheppard made a motion to adopt the proposal, seconded by Allen Hansen.
Discussion called. Motion failed.

Stan Zuray made the motion to approve the proposal with the following amendments
Buoy attached to both ends of the drift net
seconded by Allen Hansen. Motion passed with amendments.

Proposal #83

Stan Zuray makes a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Allen Hansen. Motion passes.

Proposal #84

Stan Sheppard makes a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Allen Hansen. Motion passed.

Proposal #86

Motion is made to adopt proposal, 2nd by Stan Sheppard. Motion failed.

Proposal #87

Bill Alstrom made a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Robert Walker. Motion passed.

Proposal #88

Victor Lord made a motion to adopt proposal. Motion suspended, quorum lost. At 1:20 p.m. quorum regained. Victor Lord made a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Stan Sheppard. Motion passed.

Proposal #89

Stan Zuray makes a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Allen Hansen. Motion passed.

Proposal #140

Stan Zuray made a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Jan Woodruff. Motion passed.

Proposal #139

Lester Wilde made a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Allen Hansen. Motion passed.

Proposal #134

Stan Zuray made a motion to adopt proposal, seconded by Jan Woodruff. Motion passed.

Next Meeting**IX. Closing Comments**

Stan Sheppard: Did we come up with the next meeting time and date?

Serena Fitka: Next meeting is scheduled for April 2024.

Charlie Wright: Thanks all for your dedication to salmon and our way of life, take time out of your day, happy holidays.

Allen Hansen: Thank you all for doing this and going over our proposals. Keep in mind that our staff are going to work on these proposals, Merry Christmas.

Serena Fitka: Would the YRDFA board like to submit a letter of support for Stan Zuray to be appointed to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries vacant seat?

Victor Lord called for a motion to support Stan Zuray as Board of Fisheries vacant seat. Jan Woodruff made motion, seconded by Stan Sheppard. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Darrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Victor Lord. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.



Finance Report

Richell Carmichael, Finance Manager

Here is a brief summary of the financial reports for last fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) period (unaudited), which you'll find attached. In reviewing these statements, please consider the following notes:

Balance Sheet Cash Balances (all accounts reconciled through June 30, 2023) YRDFA had \$83,162.85 in its various bank accounts. Accounts Receivable: We had \$121,914.32 in receivable accounts from various grant sources. All of which we were able to collect on. Accounts Payable: We had \$2,046.55 in accounts payable. We had a \$7,745.59 balance on our First National Bank Credit Cards, which also has been paid. Payroll liabilities are at a balance of \$35,821.00. We have Unearned revenue of \$193,465.56, which is money that we've received from funders ahead of doing the work for the grant. As we spend on those grants, we reduce this Unearned Revenue category.

Income Statement: The June 30 Statement of Activities (also known as an Income Statement) reflects a negative net income of \$18,305.27 (revenues over expenses). Last fiscal year YRDFA received \$542,608.83 in grant revenue, \$877.76 in membership donations, and \$13,90.17 in contribution income. Our cash flow remains positive.

The income statement reflects expenses through June 30 of \$617,755.26.

Program Reports

YRDFA 33rd Annual Meeting Staff Report

Federal Funding

Yukon River Watershed Ecosystem Action Plan (USFWS & NOAA)

The people of the Yukon River rely heavily on the watershed's natural resources to feed their families and support their culture. Annual Chinook and Chum salmon harvest is essential for the livelihood of the 76 small, rural villages scattered around the ~330,000 square mile watershed. Since 1997, Chinook salmon runs and harvest have declined. In recent years, both Chinook and Chum salmon runs failed completely with devastating consequences to Yukon River watershed people, families, community and culture. Significant habitat alteration has occurred throughout portions of the Yukon river watershed in Alaska and Canada that could be impacting salmon recruitment, yet no comprehensive assessment of these alterations and their potential impact to wild salmon runs has been completed.

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) will consult directly with Yukon river watershed communities and incorporate Indigenous Traditional Knowledge to complete a comprehensive assessment and prioritization of habitat restoration needs documented in a watershed-wide eco-system action plan. The funding will be used to employ residents of the rural Yukon villages to carry out this effort to the greatest extent possible. This project will take place over an 18-month time period and will result in a watershed ecosystem action plan (WEAP) that can be used to understand and develop actions to address the ongoing crisis of salmon declines.

YRDFA plans to accomplish this project in three phases. The first phase will involve consultation with local communities and collection of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK); phase two will involve on the ground data gathering and assessment; and phase three will involve drafting a watershed ecosystem action plan (WEAP) that prioritizes the largest impacts and threats to the watershed. The proposers anticipate that the WEAP will provide the basis for continuing watershed assessments and allow for focused efforts to pursue restoration funding for the highest priority projects that are likely to improve the health of the watershed. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Restoration Program will provide technical support to create scopes of work and cost estimates for the highest priority restoration projects that are identified by the WEAP. The identification of specific, high priority projects with scoping and cost documents will allow project partners to work with landowners to pursue funding from both public and private sources to improve the health of the watershed.

This spring we are able to hire in-community based technicians whose main focus will be conducting Traditional Ecological Knowledge interviews with Elders and experienced fishermen along the Yukon River.

End date: December 2024

YRDFA Strategic Plan Goals- #2, #3, #4

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP OSM):

In-Season Salmon Management Teleconferences:

The in-season salmon management teleconferences offer stakeholders the opportunity to get first-hand information during the fishing season, have their management questions addressed, and to share traditional ecological knowledge. In a rural and remote area as large as the Yukon River, the in-season salmon management call offers a relatively inexpensive and efficient manner to bring together agency professionals with resource stakeholders across a large geographic area in a meaningful approach to prevent and mitigate conflict.



The calls include Canadian agency and community counterparts. While outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal subsistence management program, the in-season salmon management teleconferences promote international cooperation between organizations and individuals facing common salmon management conservation and management challenges.

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) has hosted in-season salmon management teleconferences since before 1999. Other ongoing efforts to keep fishermen engaged, informed and educated about Yukon River salmon fisheries management have also been hosted by YRDFA such as in-person meetings and in recent years through social media tools. Other tribal organizations and university departments host meetings and workshops to discuss fisheries management and regulatory decision making during the off-season. The in-season salmon management teleconferences build on these efforts by hosting a dialogue among active and current fishermen and women from Yukon River communities. The calls enable people who have participated in multiple efforts to share information between stakeholders and agencies to continue to build their knowledge of in-season fisheries management, skills in active listening, public speaking and experience in participating in public forums.

The multi-year fisheries disasters have taken a toll on everyone along the Yukon River. The 2023 teleconference season was faced with low participation along the Yukon River. We shifted our approach to include fishing reports from the Alaska Peninsula and the Northern Bering Sea. A riverwide survey will be conducted regarding the teleconferences and this will give us the opportunity to transform the calls to include what the Yukon River communities want to hear and discuss.

End date: 3/31/2024

YRDFA Strategic Plan Goals - #1, #3, #4

In-Season Salmon Surveys:

The In-season Subsistence Salmon Survey Program is an important communication tool that helps managers ensure that both Yukon River escapement is met and, in a normal year, as many subsistence fishers are meeting their goals as possible. YRDFA hires a local person in 10 communities along the Yukon River stretching from Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers during the Chinook salmon season in their community. The observations fishers share with YRDFA surveyors are summarized by the community to protect anonymity and then shared with Yukon River In-season Managers and the Yukon River community through the In-season Salmon Management Teleconferences. This project is funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program through March of 2024.

This summer we were able to hire surveyors in all 10 participating communities (Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Marshall, Russian Mission, Anvik, Ruby, Huslia, Tanana/Rapids, Fort Yukon and Eagle) and they surveyed fishers during the summer fishing season for 6 weeks and reported on the teleconferences. Seven of 10 surveyors completed their end of season evaluation and noted that it is getting more difficult to get fishers to participate in the In-Season surveys. The lack of fishing in some communities has made surveying more challenging. But they did their best and represented their communities all summer through their reports and on the Teleconferences. They reported that they are able to represent fishers in their communities who do not want to speak on the teleconference or are unable to call in. They encourage YRDFA to provide incentives for fishers who participate such as a raffle for a gas or stove oil. The surveyors are also supportive of the development of digitizing this program.

YRDFA is working with the Indigenous Sentinel Network to develop a digitized version of the In-season Salmon Survey program. This will allow our surveyors to conduct the survey digitally with their phones and teach fishers how to submit observations on their own. We expect to have the digital version completed later this year.

End date: 3/31/2024

YRDFA Strategic Plan Goals - #1, #3, #4

North Pacific Research Board (NPRB):

They Told us there'd come a time....Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition. A catalog of Elders Warnings:

This project has been documenting local and traditional knowledge including warnings from Elders about their concerns related to salmon. Our team spent year one reviewing the previously documented recordings in the archives and year two interviewing fishers and Elders. The project is in its final year and we are working on our products and sharing results which includes brochures, reports and short video clips to be shared on social media and our website, and at presentations. To date, our team has conducted 43 interviews with Elders and fishers. They are using their materials to create videos showcasing the project. They each created their first short videos about this project and presented them at the YRFDFA pre-season meeting in April and the TCC convention in March. The videos are posted on our Youtube page. Also earlier this year, Millena Jordan and Katie Turner attended and testified at the Board of Fish meetings and joined Gabe Canfield at Salmonfest this year to represent YRFDFA and share about this project. The remainder of this program will be spent finalizing our products and results and sharing them at various venues.

End Date 3/31/2024

YRFDFA Strategic Plan Goals - #1, #3, #4

Engaging Fishers in Research on Chinook and Chum Salmon:

This project, funded by the North Pacific Research Board, began in January of 2023 runs through Feb 2026. It has a goal of contributing to an understanding of the drivers of decline and collapse in Yukon Chinook and chum salmon. Through this project we are partnering with four Yukon River communities - Alakanuk, Emmonak, St. Mary's, and Huslia - and another NPRB funded project, Exploring Linkages of a Changing Climate and Productivity of Chinook Salmon led by Drs. Katie Howard and Vanessa von Biela. Local and Traditional Knowledge interviews on historical Chinook salmon health in Alakanuk and Emmonak will inform their biological research on drivers of salmon decline by learning about the historic health of Chinook salmon as they leave the marine environment and enter the freshwater environment. Our second objective is working with fishers in St. Marys and Huslia to monitor river water temperature, create a community response team to assess the damage if there is a salmon die-off and conduct annual salmon carcass surveys. Our third objective is to increase outreach and hold community meetings to share Yukon River salmon research.

We started our work on the TEK interviews when Catherine traveled to Emmonak in March 2023. Videographer Howdice Brown III came along to record the activities and community feedback. We held a community meeting to describe the project and brought speakers to share about Yukon River salmon research. Holly Carroll of USFWS presented about the Ichthyophonous project and Vanessa von Biela of USGS presented about the heat stress studies. While in Emmonak, we were able to conduct 8 TEK interviews.

In June Catherine traveled to Alakanuk to conduct TEK interviews and hold a community meeting to discuss YRFDFA activities and this project. We had a great community meeting with a lot of ideas and feedback shared. With the help of local assistant Arlene Frances, we were able to conduct 7 TEK interviews.

Objective 2 activities began in June with Serena Fitka's, Executive Director, first stop in St. Mary's where we hired David Beans to conduct water temperature monitoring and oversee the temperature logger on the Andreafski River. Serena then joined the YRFDFA team Catherine and Michelle in Huslia to begin the water temperature monitoring portion of the project and to hold a community meeting. We hired Francis Nollner to monitor the temperature logger in the Koyukuk River.

End Date Feb 2026

YRFDFA Strategic Plan Goals - #1, #3, #4



Exploring Linkages Between a Changing Climate and Productivity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon in Partnership with ADF&G

We will be working with communities of St. Mary's and Huslia to identify individuals who have the local expertise and interest for participating in field sampling for this project. YRDFA will contract local stakeholders to collect samples alongside project biologists in the most effective and sensitive manner (no additional pre-spawn salmon mortality). Community leadership are supporting this project, as evidenced by the letters of support, and will be key to ensuring effective community involvement. YRDFA will also facilitate bridging the gap between salmon stakeholders and project investigators through a variety of opportunities to join community and tribal meetings. Since much of the data collected under this proposal will be novel and lacks a pre-decline baseline, YRDFA is also leading a companion project (also submitted to NPRB, "Engaging Yukon River Fishers in Research on Chinook Salmon Declines") that seeks to collect traditional ecological knowledge about historical changes to the health of Yukon River Chinook salmon from communities who observe these fish near river entry.

End date June 2026

YRDFA Strategic Plan Goals -#1, #4

State of Alaska

Yukon River Watershed Clearinghouse

The Yukon River Watershed Clearinghouse project, funded by the State of Alaska. The goal of this project is to establish a clearinghouse that allows for tracking of both social and ecological changes in ways that are culturally relevant and responsive to the needs of the people of the Yukon River watershed. Ultimately we will have a database storing Yukon specific information and help us identify hot spots that need attention to protect salmon.

Locally hired technicians are conducting Traditional Ecological Knowledge interviews with their Elders and we are working to get their water quality monitoring started. The TEK interviews focus on fish health and abundance changes, observed changes, and local concerns of the Yukon River freshwater environment.

In May, we hired technicians and held a training event in Anchorage to kick it off. Since then, two of our technicians have begun working on their TEK interviews. Max Nicholi of Russian Mission has completed his required 4 interviews in his home community and has traveled to his first regional community of Holy Cross where he was able to conduct 3 interviews.

A second training event took place in Ruby and Galena in the month of August/September with three technicians (Max Nickoli, Millena Jordan, and Nita Stevens and Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed Council. YRITWC conducted a water quality demonstration on the river the first day then conducted TEK interviews the following day.

End Date 2027

YRDFA Strategic Plan Goals - #1, #2, #3,

Subsistence Assistants (ADF&G contracted)

The Subsistence Assistants program training took place on Wednesday August 30 and Thursday August 31 of this year put on by YRDFA and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This program helps survey communities and community members who fish during the summer during post-season to get a comprehensive report of the fishing season on the Yukon River. The in-person surveying will begin in Emmonak on September 4 and will move upriver through communities throughout September and October. This year is the first year since 2019 that the surveying is taking place in person rather than over the phone. The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association will be coordinating the partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to hire local community surveyors to connect with the community, find households to survey, support with transportation, and inform of any community events that may overlap. An end of season report will be crafted following the end of the surveying period.

Integrating Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (LTK) into Anadromous Waters Cataloging and Fish Inventories of select drainages of the Tanana and Yukon rivers 2021-2024: (AKSSF funded):

This project, funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF), is a partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Together, we are working with the communities of Tanana, Nenana, and Manley Hot Springs to identify important areas with anadromous fish and other fish for investigations to nominate areas for the Anadromous Waters Catalog and the Alaska Freshwater Fish Inventory. In year one, we conducted interviews and mapping activities with 20 knowledgeable fishers and hunters in the three communities. In year two, the ADFG team conducted their field work to document fish presence, rearing, and spawning. Nominations were made for water bodies supporting anadromous fishes such as least cisco, broad whitefish, humpback whitefish, and/or Chinook salmon. They caught 15 species and made 29 nominations to the Alaska Freshwater Fish Inventory on 30 water bodies including 13 new or extended water bodies added to the Anadromous Waters Catalog, 8 water bodies had new species or species life-phases added, and 33 miles of previously unlisted anadromous fish habitat (streams) were added.

This past summer was an extended field work period due to weather delays on fieldwork planned for the summer 2022. To assist the collection process, we contracted with a local fisher out of Tanana to sample 4 streams that the ADFG team was unable to successfully sample at in 2022. Additionally, the ADFG team was able to travel to Nenana in August to sample in some headwater sites. This completes our fish sampling for this project and now we wait for ADFG to conduct their data entry, nominations and Anadromous Waters Catalog updates. Once complete our final task will be to hold community meetings with Nenana, Manley Hot Springs and Tanana.

End Date: June 2024





2023 Preliminary Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Review

Supplemental handout from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Yukon Team
For the Fall Regional Advisory Council Meetings

This summary is considered preliminary as estimates of abundance may change post season. Fall season data is still being compiled at time of submission, and therefore should be considered incomplete. This report is compiled by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Going into the 2023 fishing season, the Yukon River Chinook and Chum salmon had very poor projected run sizes. There was little to no expected harvestable surplus available for subsistence salmon fishing, and therefore salmon fishing closures were needed throughout the season. We aimed to give plenty of notice to Yukon River fishers on what to expect. The outlook and management strategy were discussed in depth during the spring of 2023 at the following meetings: Yukon River Panel, the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission preseason meeting, and the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association (YRDFA) Board meeting, and preseason fishermen's meeting.

The colored Outlook flier with the pre-season management strategy was mailed to all Yukon River households in May. Below we outline how each run compared to their respective preseason forecast and historical run sizes.

Summer Season

The 2023 Chinook Salmon drainage wide outlook was for a run size of 62,000 to 104,000 fish, with the Canadian component unlikely to be large enough to meet escapement goals. The Chinook Salmon drainage wide run came in below the preseason outlook and was the second lowest on record with approximately 58,500 Chinook Salmon passing Pilot Station sonar (Figure 1). Of those passing the sonar, approximately 28,000 were Canadian-origin (based on genetic mixed stock analysis at the Pilot Station sonar) and were expected at the Eagle sonar. However, only approximately 15,300 Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon passed the Eagle sonar (Figure 2). This is well below the previous Interim Management Escapement goal of 42,500 to 55,000, and only slightly larger than 2022, which was the lowest on record for this project. For the fifth season in a row, nearly half as many Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon as expected arrived at the Eagle sonar. While we do not know what is causing this discrepancy, there are indications Chinook Salmon may be dying during their migration in the upper river (known as en route mortality). See details of our collaborative research in the "*Ichthyophonus*" section below.

The summer Chum Salmon run was projected to be 280,000 to 900,000 fish. The run fell within the upper end of the forecast, with a final passage estimate of approximately 846,000 summer Chum Salmon past the Pilot Station sonar. As of the transition date to fall season at the Pilot Station sonar, July 18, the run was within drainage wide escapement goal of 500,000 to 1.2 million. This is a great improvement over the low return in 2022. While the drainage wide escapement goal was met, other important escapement goals for summer Chum Salmon including the Anvik River were likely not met, and counts at other assessment projects were still well below average.

Fall Season

The fall Chum Salmon outlook was between 112,000 to 602,000 fish. The final day of counting at Pilot Station sonar is September 7. Approximately 335,000 Chum Salmon passed the sonar between July 19 and August 31 (Figure 4). Inseason, genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) was applied to Pilot Station sonar counts to provide a more accurate index of fall Chum Salmon abundance. The in river abundance estimate of fall Chum Salmon was approximately 257,000 and is short of the 300,000 fish needed to meet escapement needs or to provide any subsistence harvest. As of August 31, the fall Chum Salmon count at Eagle sonar was 346 which is below the average of 3,747 for this date. Inseason MSA estimates indicate Canadian border objectives for fall Chum Salmon will not be met this season. The passage estimates of fall Chum salmon at Teedriinjik sonar are well below average, but the project has experienced high water and flooding and missed some days of counting. Sheenjek River sonar counts are also well below average. Upper Yukon River escapement projects for fall Chum Salmon are still ongoing at the time this document was submitted therefore estimates are incomplete.

The Coho Salmon run outlook was for a below average return. The Coho Salmon run came in much lower than 2022, with approximately 33,500 fish counted at the Pilot Station sonar through August 31, which is below the average of 118, 591 fish (for this date historically) and the second lowest on record. (Figure 5).

Management Actions

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) received special action request FSA23-02 asking the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to close Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of Chinook, Chum and Coho salmon except by federally qualified subsistence users from June 1 through September 30, 2023, and to require that Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closures and methods be determined by the Federal Fisheries Manager. This request fell within the scope of authority of the Federal manager, Holly Carroll and was transferred to her by the Board. The request; the testimonies at a public hearing; discussions at Tribal Consultations; and public discussions at the YR DFA preseason fishermen's meeting were all considered in the Federal management strategy. After coordination with staff from OSM and the management team from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the Federal management actions were taken in consultation and concurrently with ADF&G announcements which restricted state-managed waters. When any salmon fishing opportunity was provided, fishing was limited by the Federal manager to federally qualified subsistence users only in Federal public waters.

Unfortunately, due to the poor outlook and returns, directed-subsistence salmon fishing for Chinook and Chum salmon were essentially closed for the entire season. Managers provided liberal opportunity for subsistence fishers to harvest non-salmon species using 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (restricted to 60 feet maximum length) during closures. Once summer Chum Salmon abundance was large enough to meet the drainage-wide escapement goal, selective gear fishing opportunities to target summer chum were opened up through Subdistrict 5-ABC and allowed the retention of Pink, Sockeye, summer Chum and Coho salmon.

However, once the fall Chum Salmon were more abundant in the run retention of fall chum was closed in each district, but selective gears were still legal for retention of coho. However, by the final week of August, it became clear the Coho salmon were clearly coming in much poorer than expected so retention of Coho and Chum salmon were no longer allowed. A drainage-wide announcement closing all retention of Coho Salmon was issued August 31. At this time, as no salmon harvest opportunities were being provided, Federal special actions limiting fishing to federally qualified users in Federal public waters were rescinded.

While the mainstem restrictions for subsistence salmon fishing will be relaxed in October, some tributaries such as the Koyukuk River, Teedriinjik and Porcupine rivers will need to stay closed through December in order to avoid harvest of actively spawning fall Chum Salmon.

The USFWS and the Yukon River Fishery Management team acknowledges the last three years with no directed Chinook and summer Chum salmon and 4 years with no fall Chum Salmon subsistence salmon fishery has resulted in tremendous hardship, loss of cultural practices, and unprecedented sacrifice within Yukon River households and communities. We recognize all of those who continue to be stewards of their surrounding lands and waters and would like to express a special thank you to those who have stayed involved at various public outreach meetings during these disheartening times of low abundance.

Tribal Consultation, Public Outreach, and Meetings

The USFWS has a core mission to consult with Federally Recognized Tribal Governments and the Yukon Fishery team has been working to expand and improve government-to-government consultation. This spring 2023, the USFWS held six district-wide formal Tribal Consultation teleconference meetings with Yukon River Tribal Governments. The Federal Subsistence Fishery Manager presented information on the outlook and management strategy for the 2023 salmon season, engaged in discussion among Tribal representatives and USFWS staff on the provided information as well as other topics such as the Federal special action request (FSA23-02), updates on *Ichthyophonus* research and other topics chosen by Tribal representatives.

This fall 2023, the USFWS will offer one-to-one Tribal Consultations with any Tribal Government that requests one with the Inseason manager. An invitation will be sent to each Yukon River Tribal Government and ANCSA corporation offering the opportunity to schedule any requested meetings. This approach will allow each Tribal Government to tailor the consultation around their individual topics of concern, questions, or recommendations regarding Yukon River fisheries management. This coming spring, district-wide Tribal Government Consultations will be offered to share salmon outlooks prior to the 2024 fishing season.

Inseason assessment data and management actions were shared weekly on the Tuesday YRDFA teleconferences. Throughout the fishing season, management staff also responded to daily emails and phone calls from community members. The Federal emergency special actions were announced on the same day as ADF&G Advisory Announcements, and were emailed to City and Tribal Government offices, posted online under Fisheries Special Actions on the Office of Subsistence Management website and Subsistence Facebook page, and distributed by email to anyone signed up to receive Federal announcements. **If you did not receive Federal announcements this summer, please contact the USFWS management staff (listed at the end of this document) to get signed up for future notices. If you have feedback about federal management and how it went this season, we would love to hear it; please call or email the Federal team.**

The following figures show inseason abundance indices (with data through August 31, 2023) for each species compared to previous seasons. These estimates should not be used to compare to escapement goals, as runs are reconstructed post season using methods that account for harvest, escapement, and genetic mixed stock analysis. All estimates for 2023 are preliminary.

Figure 1. Cumulative passage of Chinook salmon at the Pilot Station sonar from 1995 through 2023, excluding 1996 and 2009.

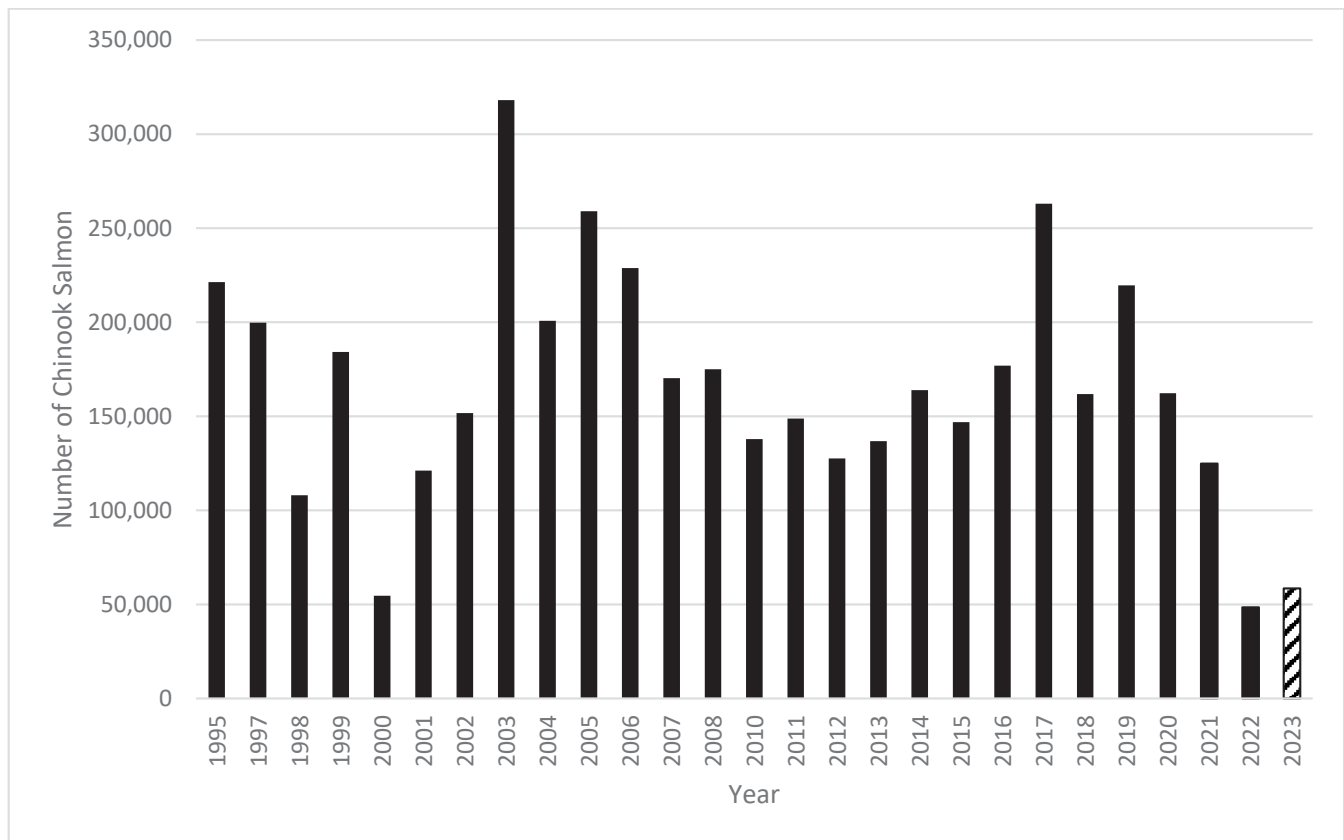


Figure 2. Cumulative passage estimates of Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon at Eagle sonar from 2005 through 2023.

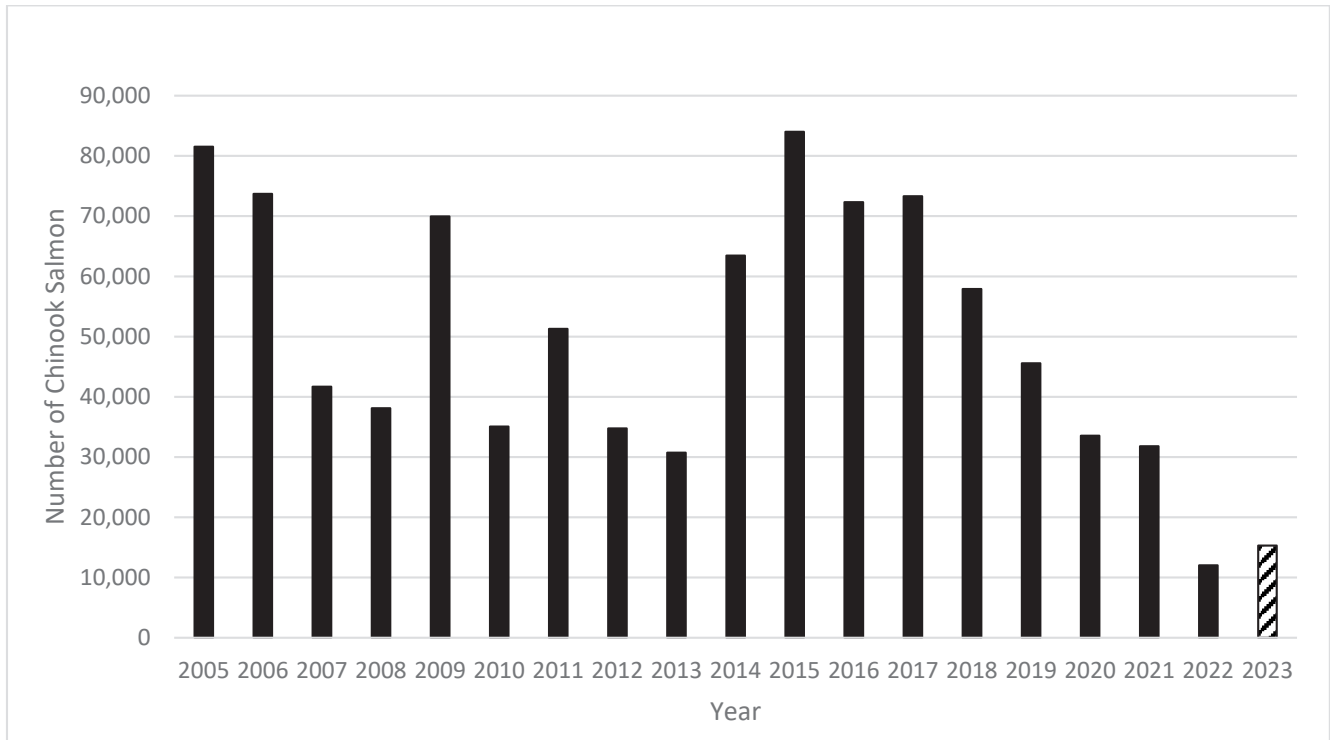


Figure 3. Cumulative passage of summer Chum Salmon at the Pilot Station sonar project (through July 18) from 1995 through 2023, excluding 1996.

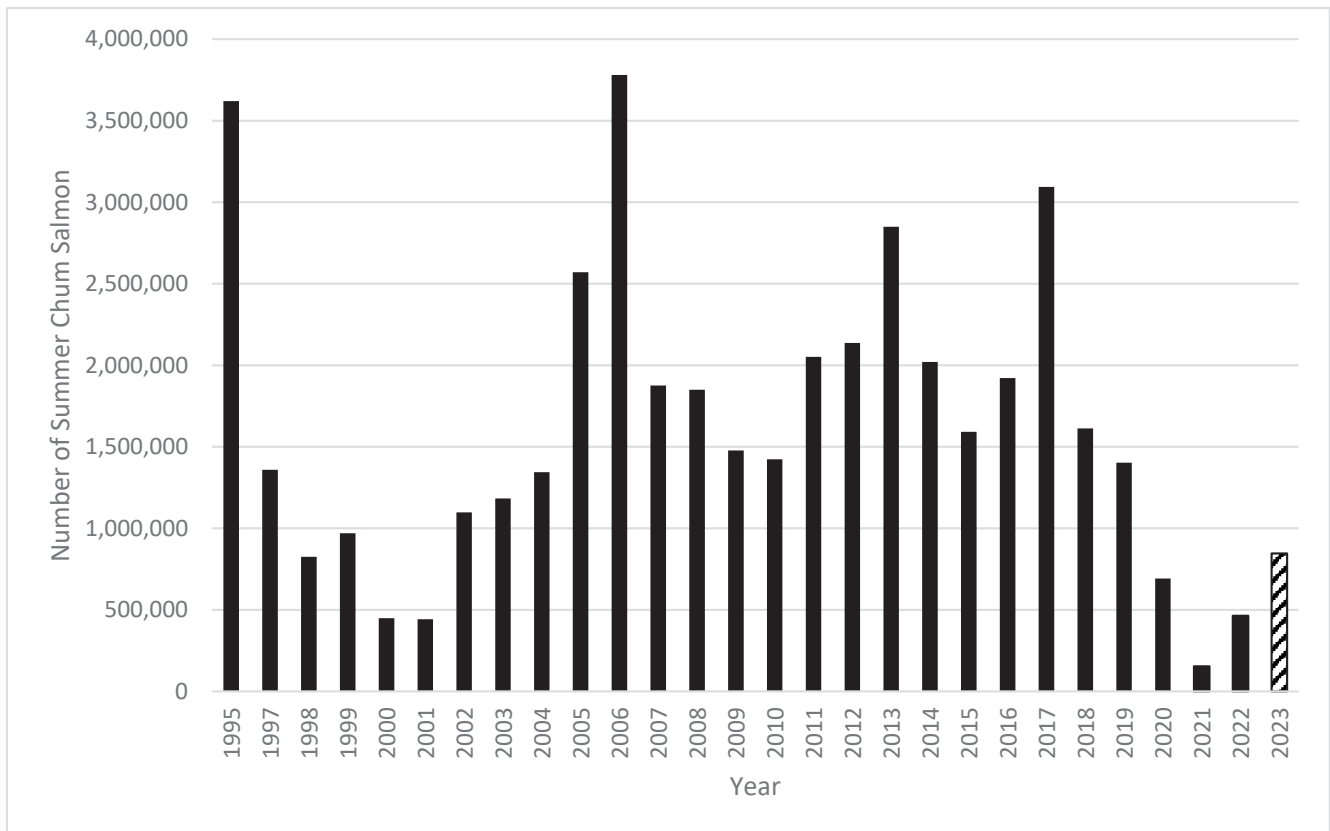


Figure 4. Cumulative passage of fall Chum Salmon (after July 18 and through August 31) at the Pilot Station sonar project from 1995 through 2023, excluding 1996 and 2009.

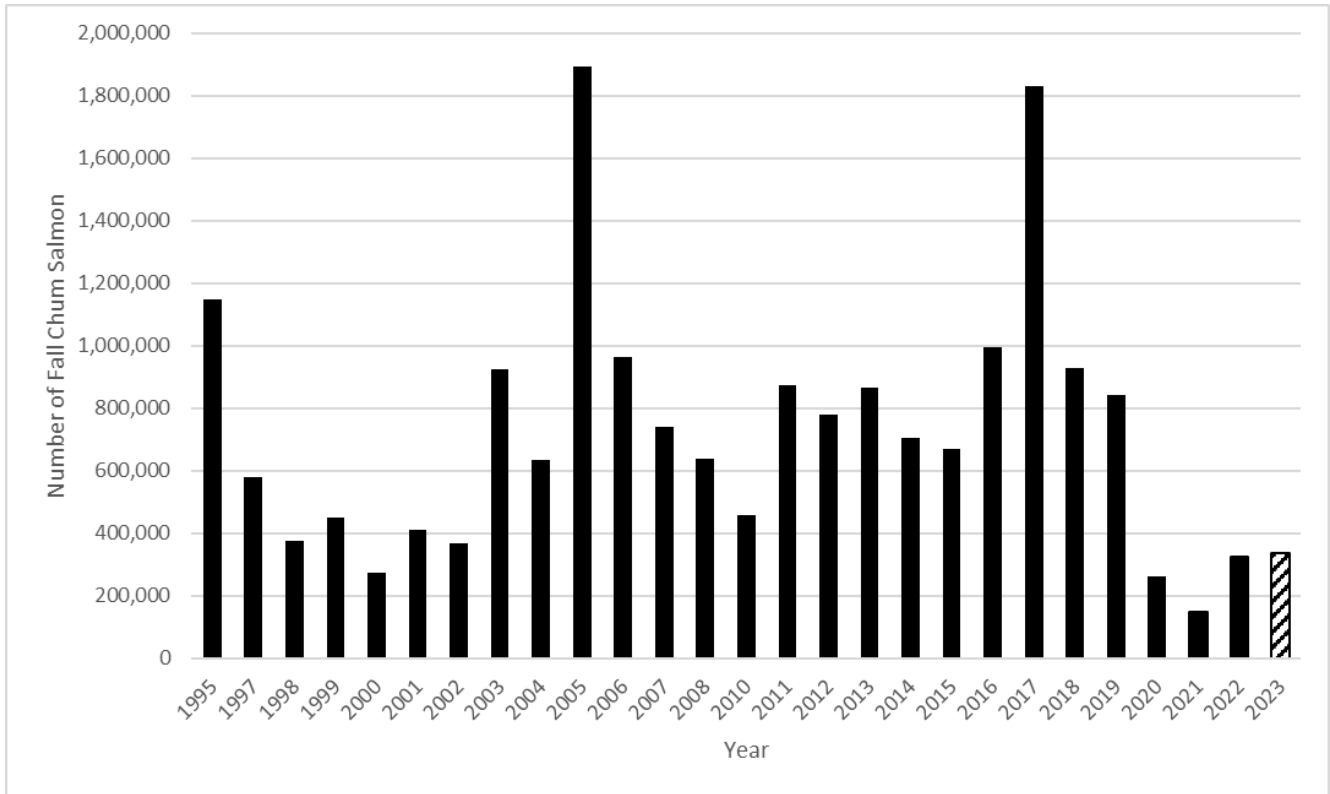
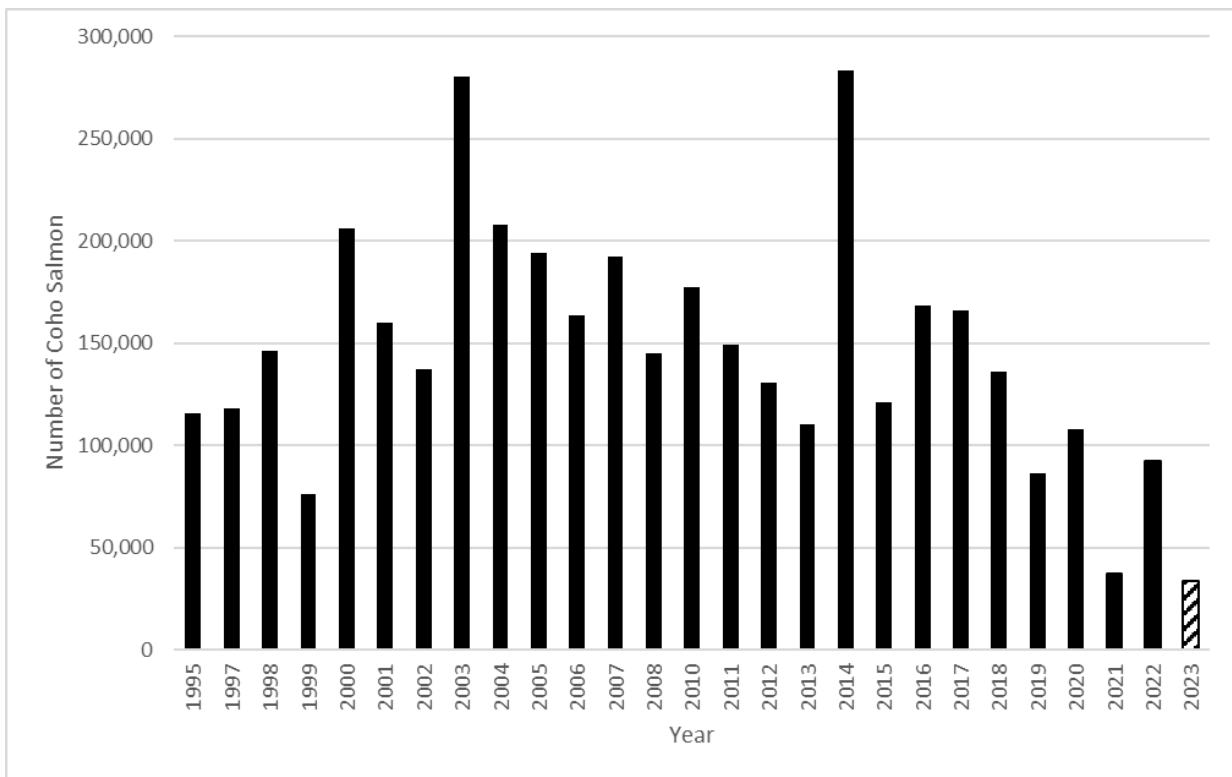


Figure 5. Cumulative passage of Coho Salmon at the Pilot Station sonar project from 1995 through 2023, excluding 1996 and 2009. The sonar ceases operations before the Coho Salmon run is complete, so estimates are considered an index.



***Ichthyophonus* Study**

We continue to monitor the amount of *Ichthyophonus* disease present in the Yukon River Chinook Salmon population, the intensity of the disease, and whether Chinook Salmon are dying due to disease before reaching upper portions of the drainage and spawning locations. This is a collaborative effort between ADF&G, the USFWS, and multiple fish disease experts, affected communities, and local Yukon River fishers.

Steps were taken to minimize the impact of the study and ensure that sampled fish were used to the greatest possible benefit. Careful planning of the minimum sample sizes needed for statistical rigor were considered. All the sampled fish were handled with the highest care and respect contributing to a variety of research projects addressing Yukon Chinook salmon health and life history, and distributed to local elders, Tribal Governments and individuals for subsistence use.

Official sampling in 2023 occurred at three sites: Pilot Station sonar test fishery in the lower river (operated by ADF&G), Rampart rapids from a fish wheel test fishery contracted by the USFWS (in the middle river), and near Fort Yukon at a fish wheel test fishery contracted by the USFWS (in the upper river). Sampling goals were a maximum of 180 fish per site, but low catch rates contributed to the following sample sizes collected (n): Pilot Station (n = 156), Rapids (n = 180), and Fort Yukon (n = 90). Preliminary results will be shared once data is analyzed.

The overall goal of the project is to establish a new long-term *Ichthyophonus* disease monitoring platform in the lower Yukon River, build capacity and support for community-based *Ichthyophonus* monitoring by Tribal Governments or local Yukon River fishers, and determine if *Ichthyophonus* is associated with en route mortality allowing for appropriate management adjustments, if necessary.

Please contact any member of our team with questions about Yukon Fisheries:

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ADF&G:

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Christine.Gleason@alaska.gov

Resolutions

Resolution a.

Resolution: 2023-01 - Call to Reduce Yukon River Chum Salmon Discards in Area M Fishery

WHEREAS: the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) represents subsistence, commercial, personal and sport users of wild salmon and other fish within the Alaska portion of the Yukon River drainage; and,

WHEREAS: Yukon River Chinook and Chum salmon stocks have declined to critically low levels, preventing any Chinook harvests and minimally small chum harvests in 2023 including subsistence; and,

WHEREAS: the peoples of the Yukon River are profoundly dependent upon Yukon River salmon for food, livelihood and cultural tradition; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries are mixed stock fisheries harvesting salmon from multiple river systems, including the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS: Yukon River chum and Chinook travel through the Area M region of the Bering Sea; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries harvested 814,248 chum salmon in 2022; and,

WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has reported 9 citations of captains and crew members in the Area M fishery for violations of dumping unwanted Chum salmon overboard in June and July of 2023; and,

WHEREAS: Yukon River salmon are impacted by these chum salmon discards despite citations

BE IT RESOLVED, that YRDFA supports reducing Yukon River chum salmon discards in the Area M fishery within all fishery types and methods in Area M to protect Western Alaska Salmon.

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska and virtual forum.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Governor's Office.

Attest:

Victor Lord, YRDFA Co-Chair

William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair



Resolution b.

Resolution: 2023-02 - Support the Protection of Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

WHEREAS the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) works on behalf of subsistence and commercial fishing families within the Alaskan and Canadian Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS Chinook and chum salmon provide an essential source of food, income and culture for the people of the Yukon River, with chum salmon increasingly important for commercial fisheries and subsistence as Chinook salmon decline; and

WHEREAS the returns of Chinook and chum salmon to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim rivers have fallen below 250,000 which enacted Amendment 110; and

WHEREAS the Bering Sea pollock fish set performance standard for Chinook Salmon, but has not established a performance standard for chum salmon; and

WHEREAS the Yukon River has been declared a fishery disaster for 2020 & 2021; and

WHEREAS in 2021 bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery for Chinook Salmon was a total of 13,783 and for Chum Salmon a total of 530,626. Although YRDFA recognizes that only half of these are going to Western Alaska and only a portion are Canadian origin Chinook salmon and that these are immature salmon that may not all survive and make it to the river. Considering our current situation on the river, every salmon counts. The bycatch in the Bering sea could be equal or greater to the Yukon River's entire subsistence catch.

WHEREAS YRDFA requests that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council provide continuously updated information about the current bycatch numbers of Chinook Salmon to the Yukon River Communities, Organizations, and to YRDFA.

WHEREAS in these times of Chinook, summer and fall chum salmon declines, all sources of mortality must be reduced and all harvesters of salmon must bear equitably in conserving Chinook salmon; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA demands the North Pacific Fishery Council to take extreme measures to protect Yukon River salmon species and implores the Council to take action to reduce the overall bycatch and implement changes in the fishery to avoid Chinook and chum salmon bycatch.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that YRDFA requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council also take action to adopt chum salmon bycatch management measures which will adequately protect Western Alaska chum salmon runs.

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska and virtual forum.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner, Yukon River Panel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference and other Western Alaska salmon groups.

Attest:

Thank you. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Co-Chairs:

YRDFA Co-Chair/Y-2, Seat 1
William Alstrom/Saint Mary’s

YRDFA Co-Chair/Y-6, Seat 2
Victor Lord/Nenana



Resolution c.

Resolution: 2023-03 - Reduce Salmon output of Private Nonprofit Corporation Hatchery (PNP) Production within Alaska

WHEREAS; the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) works on behalf of subsistence and commercial fishing families within the Alaskan and Canadian Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS; total hatchery releases in Alaska for 2021 was over 1.7 billion salmon annually; and

WHEREAS; these salmon all intermingle in the North Pacific and compete with wild salmon populations for food; and

WHEREAS; Yukon River salmon are among several wild salmon stocks in the State of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest at critically low levels; and

WHEREAS: Yukon River Chinook and Chum salmon stocks have declined to critically low levels, preventing any Chinook harvests and minimally small chum harvests in 2023 including subsistence; and,

WHEREAS; reasons for long-term and immediate salmon stock declines are related to a complex web of factors including impact by other human activities as well as climate change; and

WHEREAS; the large number of hatchery fish in the ocean can limit the growth of wild stocks and hatchery stocks, particularly when ocean conditions are not productive for salmon including increased competition for more limited food resources; and

WHEREAS; it is imperative that resource stewards take increased precautions at times of uncertainty and decreased resilience of our critical wild stocks; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA request reducing the output of juvenile salmon releases on hatchery production within Alaska.

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska and virtual forum.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Governor's Office.

Attest:

Victor Lord, YRDFA Co-Chair

William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair

Resolution d.

Resolution: 2023-04 - Support Yukon River current Interim Management Goals of 42,500-55,000 for one full life cycle

WHEREAS the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) works on behalf of subsistence and commercial fishing families within the Alaskan and Canadian Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS Chinook salmon runs have been very low in recent years; and

WHEREAS Although there has been conservation measures, we have not met escapement goals for the past four years; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED YRDFA would like to see Yukon River salmon managed by the current Interim Management Escapement Goals of 42,500- 55,000.

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska and virtual forum.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to US Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan and US Representative Mary Peltola, the Alaska Commissioner of Fish and Game and Yukon River Panel, and the Pacific Salmon Commission.

Attest:

Victor Lord, YRDFA Co-Chair

William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair



Resolution e.

Resolution: 2023-04 - 2022-2023 Extending Yukon River Fisheries Disaster Declaration Request

WHEREAS, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) represents subsistence, commercial, personal and sport users of wild salmon and other fish within the Alaska portion of the Yukon River drainage; and,

WHEREAS, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association requests the State of Alaska to declare a Fisheries Economic and Subsistence Disaster Declaration as authorized under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act; and,

WHEREAS, the summer and fall chum salmon outlooks for 2022-23 were projected to provide for more escapement than previous years, and,

WHEREAS, subsistence and commercial closures went into effect along the Yukon River drainage and,

WHEREAS, the amounts needed for subsistence were not met and harvests are estimated to be below 1% of average which does not include the loss of cultural and traditional values ingrained in subsistence harvest; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game implemented conservation closures for all directed Chinook, fishers were required to release all incidentally-caught Chinook,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game implemented conservation closures after a short subsistence chum opening that did not meet subsistence needs, and,

WHEREAS, commercial summer chum fishing consisted of no commercial fishing for fall chum or coho; and,

WHEREAS, the loss to commercial fishermen coupled with the loss of employment to local salmon processing employees resulted in severe economic impact to a region with the highest rate of unemployment in the State,

WHEREAS, the people of the Yukon River rely on salmon for their livelihood, local economies, cultural traditions, and primary food source; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association supports the fishermen and women in their efforts to urge the State of Alaska's Governor Dunleavy to request a fishing disaster extending the 2020 and 2021 declaration, to be declared for the Yukon River for the 2022 and 2023 fishing seasons.

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Board members and delegates of YRDFA assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska and virtual forum.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan, US Rep. Mary Peltola, Alaska State Legislators, Commissioner Doug Vincent Lang, Commissioner Julie Anderson, Governors' Chief of Staff Tyson Gallagher, NOAA Alaska Regional Office, Randy Fisher with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Attest:

YRDFA Co-Chair/Y-2, Seat 1
William Alstrom/Saint Mary's

YRDFA Co-Chair/Y-6, Seat 2
Victor Lord/Nenana



Resolution f.

Resolution: 2023-06 - Protecting the Yukon River: Opposing Oil & Gas Development in the Yukon Flats

WHEREAS, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) is an organization made up of Indigenous Tribes and Canadian First Nations from the headwaters to the mouth of the Yukon River, having been placed here by our Creator, do hereby agree to initiate and continue the clean up and preservation of the Yukon River for the protection of our own and future generations of our Tribes/First Nations and for the continuation of our traditional Native way of life; and

WHEREAS, Protection of the Yukon River Watershed is critical to every village along the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS, The Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge is a vital component of the Yukon River Watershed making up a complex network of wetlands, lakes and streams bisected by the Yukon River, supporting the highest density of breeding ducks in Alaska, and encompasses one of the greatest waterfowl breeding areas in North America; and

WHEREAS, The Yukon Flats is also critical habitat for moose, salmon, caribou, bears, wolves, wolverine, and other fur bearing animals; and

WHEREAS, The continued practice of the traditional way of life by the Interior Alaska Indigenous people, being the Koyukon and Gwich'in Athabascan people is essential to the preservation of their physical, mental and spiritual well-being; and

WHEREAS, Doyon, Limited, a for-profit Alaska Native corporation, has entered into an contract with Hilcorp Energy Company of Houston, Texas to explore for oil and gas in the Yukon Flats without consulting the region's sovereign tribal entities; and

WHEREAS, Hilcorp Energy Company is a privately owned energy company with a long history of environmental disasters and fines for environmental and worker safety violations; and

WHEREAS, The Yukon River salmon is a critical food source that sustains all of the villages up and down the river, and is central to Koyukon and Gwich'in cultures along the Yukon River and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the tribal governments of the Yukon Flats recognizes that the risk to our land, rivers, animals, food sources, culture and way of life is substantial and immediate; and

WHEREAS, oil exploration and any development activities will alter the pristine nature of the landscape, destroy or modify habitats, alter wildlife behavior and movements (including migratory patterns), introduce invasive species and affect the composition, structure, and functioning of soil, water, air, and other abiotic features; and

WHEREAS, The social and human health impacts from oil development will likely have a negative impact on the Indigenous people's health, including physiological, psychological, and personal safety; and

WHEREAS, The Indigenous inhabitants of the Yukon Flats are the caretakers of the land, protecting their traditional aboriginal lands for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association opposes the exploration and development of oil and gas in the Yukon Flats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association commits to the protection of their lands, communities and environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association requests that Doyon, Limited, cease all oil and gas exploration and development in the Yukon Flats.

COPIES of this resolution will be sent to Doyon Limited, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and HilCorp

APPROVED unanimously this _____ by the Delegation of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association assembled at their 2023 Annual Meeting held in Anchorage and in virtual forum.

Attest:

William Alstrom, St. Mary's
YRDFA Co-Chair District Y1, Seat 1

Victor Lord, Nenana
YRDFA Co-Chair District Y6, Seat 2



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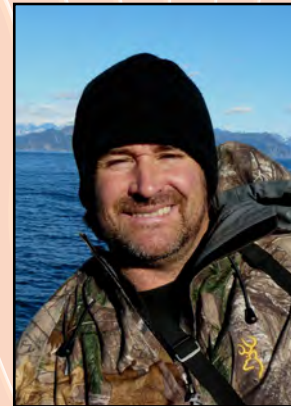
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Palmer, Alaska 99645

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Notes:

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