



TO: Traditional Alaska Native Fishing families
From: YRDFA, YDFDA, AVCP, TCC
Date: August 17, 2021

RE: Requesting a Yukon River Fishery Disaster for 2021

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), in partnership with the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA), will be requesting a Fisheries Disaster Declaration for the 2021 Yukon River fishing season. This is in accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

Due to YRDFA's long standing representation of all fishery stakeholders along the Yukon River, it was by the group decision to have YRDFA take the lead in working with the communities along the Yukon River during the Fishing Disaster Declaration process. A sample resolution and cover letter will be emailed to all Tribal Governments, Village Corporations, and City offices along the Yukon River followed by a hard copy in the mail. Approved resolutions should be sent back to YRDFA, which will be compiled and sent to the Office of the Governor.

We all understand the hardship that everyone has endured in the last two years due to the unprecedented fishing outlook and be assured we are all working together in the best interest of our communities and the people we serve. We want to make sure we do our due diligence as we move forward in this process.

Although subsistence declarations are not outlined in NOAA's Fisheries Disaster Declaration process, it will be our number one priority to include the devastating subsistence impacts along the Yukon River. We all felt these impacts, which include cultural loss, food security, psychological impacts, and the overall wellness of the people along the river. We must work together and support each other during these unprecedented hardships.

Please mail, fax, or email your resolutions to: YRDFA PO Box 2618, Valdez, AK 99686, Fax (907) 272-3141 or email Serena Fitka, Executive Director at serena@yukonsalmon.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor Lord".

Victor Lord
Yukon River Drainage
Fisheries Association
Co-Chair
Nenana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Alstrom".

William Alstrom
Yukon River Drainage
Fisheries Association
Co-Chair
St. Mary's

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vivian Korthuis".

Vivian Korthuis
Association of Village Council Presidents
Chief Executive Officer



Pollock Simon, Jr
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Chief/Chairman



Ragnar Alstrom
Yukon Delta Fisheries
Development Association
Executive Director

<LETTERHEAD>

<DATE>

Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Honorable Governor Dunleavy,

The <INSERT TRIBE> requests the State of Alaska to declare a fisheries economic and subsistence disaster for the Yukon River drainage as authorized under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act.

The 2021 fisheries season has put a great strain on our community. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game took an extreme conservative approach with all salmon stocks on the Yukon River and no one in our community was allowed to harvest salmon for subsistence, which is a major part of our nutritional diet. We are deeply concerned with the wellbeing of our people, who are not able to practice their traditional subsistence lifestyle.

We appreciated the donations we received, but it will not sustain us through the winter. <VILLAGE> residents will not be able to have salmon to eat throughout the winter. The <TRIBE> strongly urges you to request a fishery disaster for the 2021 Yukon River season.

Attached is a resolution from <TRIBE> supporting the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association to represent our Tribes in this request.

Sincerely,

President/Chief
<TRIBE>

LETTERHEAD

2021-__

2021 YUKON RIVER FISHERIES DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

WHEREAS, the <TRIBE> 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 Alaska Department of Fish and Game implemented extreme conservation closures for all directed Chinook, summer chum, and fall chum salmon fishing; fishers were required to release all incidentally-caught Chinook, summer chum and fall chum; and,

WHEREAS, the amounts needed for subsistence were not met and estimated to be at 0% of average which does not include the loss of cultural and traditional values ingrained in subsistence harvest; and,

WHEREAS, no commercial fishing was done for both summer and fall chum fishing ;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 <TRIBE> supports the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association in their efforts to urge the State of Alaska's Governor Dunleavy to request a fishing disaster be declared for the Yukon River for the 2021 fishing season.

APPROVED unanimously this __ day of _____, 2021 by the <TRIBE> assembled at their meeting held in _____, Alaska.

President/Chief

Secretary