



**YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

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

Here is a summary of the 11th, 2020 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 28th, 2020. Call lasted 157 minutes. 79 callers participated

**Background:** Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually every Tuesday in June, July, and August for managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies in real time as the salmon run is occurring. Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.

**Media participating:** Eagle Radio, KZPA Fort Yukon, Yukon News

**Political Representatives participating:** None

**Communities participating this week:** 19

Emmonak  
Mt. Village  
St. Marys  
Marshall  
Russion Mission  
Anvik  
Nulato  
Tanana  
Rapids  
Rampart  
Beaver  
Fort Yukon  
Circle  
Eagle  
Nenana  
Fairbanks  
Dawson  
Teslin  
Whitehorse

## **Community level reports:**

### **Coastal District 1-Lower Yukon**

#### **Emmonak:**

**Ted Hamilton** - The water is super duper high from the tide. This past weekend everyone was berry picking and we saw first of fall chums mixed with summer chum. Not a very big abundance and I am hoping that this big wind down here will bring in a bunch.

### **District 2-Coastal/Lower Yukon**

#### **Mt. Village:**

**Nita Stevens** - No one is fishing. I spoke with someone running a test net and he said he has not caught anything for 4 days. Water has dropped a lot here. Water is pretty choppy today.

#### **St. Mary's:**

**Sven** - Water is dropping here, it has dropped quite a bit. Not a lot of drift in the river. I did see someone fishing last night.

#### **Marshall:**

**Norma Evan** - This past week I have not seen anyone fishing, but one person did with a short net yesterday. Most of the families are still participating in other subsistence activities mainly blueberry picking. Yesterday one family went out to Neqallaq Lake and that is way back there. They were catching a whole bunch of sheefish rotting. They were very thankful for what they got. The water went down about 5' since last weeks teleconference and it has been really cold. We made it to the news yesterday morning. We had 38 degrees. (coldest temp in the state)

### **District 3-Coastal/Lower Yukon**

#### **Russian Mission:**

**Basil Larsen** - Calling in from my house. Wasn't able to make a VHF announcement to have a meeting. Very little to no fishing activity here. There are a whole bunch of humpies. The only ones fishing are those of us with dogs. My little brother and daughter have been dipnetting every day. Just getting enough to feed the dogs. No fishing activities except those guys who rod and reel for sheefish in the creeks. It's been very cold and everyone is picking berries. With all the berry pickers there are starting to be more encounters with black bears and brown bears and that concerns us. Water is low, way low and still dropping.

### **District 4a-Upper Yukon**

#### **Anvik:**

**Ken Chase** - Not much fishing going on. I heard a couple of people went out a few days ago and got some humpies. River is coming up. The Anvik river is low. Saw some chum salmon. No bears when I went berry picking, but I had one in my smoke house.

#### **Nulato:**

**Micky Stickman** - Usually we have Arnold do our reports, but for the activity in Nulato, no one is fishing. People are picking berries like crazy. People are going about 2 miles below the village

and fishing for sheefish. Other than that everyone is picking berries. The water is rising. A few guys are going to their cabin in the Kaiyu Flats and picking up some pike.

**Arnold Demoski** - I don't have anything to report. I don't think anyone is fishing this week. I didn't hear about how anyone did. I did check someones set net and we did get a few fish. My family is done fishing until fall. I missed what Micky said.

### **Districts 5a, b, c & d**

#### **Tanana/Rapids:**

**Courtney** - I've been fishing for 36 years. There has been some mis-management between the districts this year, and it has been crazy. July 12 - District 4 had 2- 48 hrs fishing periods, District 5 had 2- 24 hrs fishing periods. We've had high water and it makes it hard for fishing. We cannot drift for fish. July 19 district 4 had (...) District 5 is closed. No families have been meeting their needs. On top of that we have 6 dog kennels and 250 dogs here that we are unable to feed with these openings.

**Stan Zurey** -Water levels continue to rise to above average level. Some drift in the river at times. Last 2 openings since the last teleconference saw some okay king numbers but 50% or greater ICK infection and white fleshed fish is the normal. Every fisherman that hadn't quit in the Rapids area except one quit after the first opening. Last opening on Friday one fisherman did run net for 12 hours and got 7 kings, 5 of which had enough disease to make them unusable. Fishing is over for the greater Rapids area and beyond that I know of. Continue to hear reports of the most severe Ichthyophonous infections ever seen by people who knew what it was in the past years of the disease. Very few chum being caught still. Small local summer chum spawning creeks are still empty as of 3 days ago. COVID- 19 Protocols remain in place at the general store where masks are worn and flights into Tanana require Tribal Council permission. The Tribal Council has asked people to please be careful and social distance everywhere they go as the disease spreads.

#### **Rampart:**

**Charlie** - We still have water coming up here. It has been coming up steady for about a week. Fishing has been fair. You have to fish hard to get fish to cut, but fish are out there. Lots of ICK like Stan said. I had to throw some away. High water eddies, some families not getting what they need. Some people in the flats are having a hard time. Those people are suffering up there, also the people in the lower district 5 are having a hard time with the high water.

#### **Beaver:**

**Rhonda Pitka** - Fishing was poor this week. We had high water and A lot of rain. We got 7 salmon and 1 had to be thrown away from ICK. It's been poor all season long.

**Rochelle Adams** - Our family did really bad this opener. We had a net full of drift. We caught one fish. This whole summer has been a disaster. I feel for everyone. No one has been able to meet their needs. We are starving. I agree about the comments of mis-management. Pretty hungry here in Beaver.

**Fort Yukon:**

**Andrew Firmin** - Contacted 15 households, interviewed 10. 7 fished , 3 did not. It's worse than last week. No chums yet. Many fish are of poor quality. Some got larger salmon. No ICK. A lot of debris on the porcupine side. User conflicts and lack of fishing areas. A lot of people running multiple gear types and ents. People are going farther and farther. I want to reiterate what Jessica Fields said. There are short openings, high water fishing conditions not enough to dial anything in. Although some caught a few in the last opener but they were small and poor quality.

**Circle:**

**Jessica Fields** - Just wanted to echo what everyone else says. We aren't getting any fish here due to high waters. It's hard to find the fish, and when we do, we are closed. No one is getting fish.

**Eagle:**

**Ruby** -Interviewed 5 households and only 1 household is fishing. That household caught a few fish using a fish wheel. Other households are not fishing due to conservation. Poor quality and small kings that are long and narrow with soft flesh.The river is high nothing but rain making fishing difficult and dangerous with a strong current

**Sonya** - No report but open for questions about fishing. I have my permit in my hand. We fished that opener from the 18-20 and we got 28 fish. one 1/4 were female and 5 we shared with other folks. That is 70% of what we normally get for our winter supply of kippered fish. We didn't fish the last 48 hour opener to help with escapement.

**Districts 6a, b & c****Nenana:**

**Victor Lord** - Ever since the closure a week ago for king on Tanana. Wheel across town has been shut off. people don't want to stand on their wheels. They want to fish for kings. I have a friend who fishes with nets and hasn't fished either. When they cut the kings off they cut fishing off (in Nenana).

**Fairbanks:**

**Stephanie Quinn-Davidson** - YRITFC - Fish commission - Just listening in, fielding a lot of phone calls and emails. Folks are concerned about fish numbers and closure in District 5. Hoping those fish are out there somewhere.

**Canada****Dawson:**

**AI - YSSC** - People have been fishing. Water is really high. Not much fish, water looks like it is coming up again. Sorry, we are sending more water across the border.

**Teslin:**

**Carl Sydney** -No Salmon here yet. I don't have any ideas when they are going to reach here. Rain every day. The lake is dropping every day, very slowly, but it is dropping. I have no idea what kind of summer this is!

**Whitehorse:**

**Elizabeth MacDonald** - I haven't heard any reports of chinook. Hopefully we will have some soon. There was a funeral in Old Crow at 2, and I heard there was a salmon meeting, that is why it is so quiet here. I have heard from some people that are waiting to fish until the numbers come up a little bit.

**Management Reports Agenda:**

**Bonnie Borba- ADF&G Fall Season Research Biologist** - The preliminary projection for fall chum salmon run is less than 450,000 fish. Adjustments to the projection may occur as inseason data becomes available. Fall chum salmon are typically dominated by age-4 fish most years. With what we are seeing this year, the 2016 parent year for all chum salmon returning to Alaska appear to have had extremely poor survival. This lack of age-4 fish returning is reflected in the projection and is expected to result in a lower abundance of fall chum salmon. The early group of fish that entered the LY on July 19 is approaching Grayling on July 28, Galena August 4, Tanana, August 10 and Nenana August 15. Fall chum salmon in this group would be approaching Rapids August 11, Fort Yukon August 20, and Eagle August 31. I am going to start off describing what we saw at the end of the summer season for chum salmon. The third stratum of chum salmon genetic samples from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery (from July 10 through July 18) consisted of nearly 98% summer chum salmon, of which, 80% were lower river stocks, 14% were bound for the middle Yukon River and 4% were bound for the Tanana River. The lower than average proportions of Tanana River stocks and, to a lesser degree, middle river stocks resulted in above average proportions of the lower stock group. The age composition of summer chum salmon sampled from the LYTF project indicates the run was composed of 80% age-5 fish, which is higher than the recent 10-year average of 45%. The average length was 570 mm, which is above the 10-year average of 563 mm. The samples were 70% female, which is above the 10-year average of 57%. These size and percent female trends are likely being driven by the smaller percentage of 4-year old fish in the samples. Updates on the fall assessment project include: LYTF operating in both Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites, with a fall chum salmon cumulative CPUE that is near the historical average for the project. MVTF is as of July 27 has a cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon that is well below the 2019 and historical median. The mainstem sonar operated near Pilot Station as of July 27 has a cumulative count of 66,500 fall chum salmon which is below the median of 127,000 fish. To reiterate all regions of Alaska are observing low chum salmon returns. No coho salmon catches have been reported in any of the projects so far this season. Coho salmon typically begin entering the Yukon River in early August with the bulk of the run occurring in mid-August. An average run size of coho salmon is approximately 243,000 fish. The return of coho salmon is primarily age-4 fish from 2016 parent year. That is all I have, Jeff will cover management strategies.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/DCFnewsrelease/1198016681.pdf>

**Jeff Estensen - Yukon Area Fall Season Manager** - Run projection is less than 450k fish. Well below average for an even year and what we were expecting. Lowest since 2010. Well below # of 4 year olds which makes up the bulk of the run (sorry typing) collectively putting this together = not a good fall chum run. What we are seeing now makes us take a very conservative approach than we have in previous years. In terms of commercial fishing, outlook is not even close to 550,000 fish needed. unlikely we will see any commercial fishing on fall chum.

Subsistence fishing - run size will likely not be big enough for escapement goals into Canada. There is still a good mix of summer chum in there. As we start getting into the fall chum we will be expecting to go to half fishing schedule;s. News releases expected this afternoon. This is to be able to get the fall chum into the spawning grounds. We need to make sure we preserve the stocks and avoid these situations to be worse 4 years down the road. We have some uncertainty getting fish into Canada. As the season progresses we will be looking at things more closely.

**Fred West, Fishery Biologist Contact info for ADFG YR Summer Season Manager; call 907/267-2324**

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Gerald Maschmann - Acting Yukon River Federal In-season Manager**- Not looking like a good fall chum run. Hearing folks on the river who want to fill out their needs with fall chum. We will be working hard to make it clear and equitable. Hearing District 5 and hearing that it is really poor fishing up there. We will be fair and equitable.

**Holly Carroll - Summer Season Manager for ADF&G** - I first want to say I appreciate everyone that are still calling in and sharing reports. We hear you, how hard it is, and the hardship you are experiencing. The chinook run is well below the forecast. 160k chinook. To meet goals on that run size, we have to take less than we need. Our run sizes have not supported our ~50k fish needed for harvests. At no time was this run size going to meet everyone's needs. We've been conservative. WE've tried to provide a little opportunity. We've struggled in balance. For those of you that have been on the calls, you'll note that no one single district has been meeting needs or been happy with their harvest. That tells me that we are doing a good job restricting people across the board. It is imperative that we think about the future. Not just this winter. With the quality of the numbers we are seeing, we should be really concerned. We are focused on getting enough fish to the spawning grounds so we get enough fish coming back to us. We need to tow the line and that is why we've closed district 5. The kings that are passing through D5 HAVE to make it to the spawning grounds. Hold tight, we just want to reduce the incidental harvest of kings.

**Gerald Maschmann - Acting Yukon River Federal In-season Manager**- Pretty good summary. Based on the pilot we expected the eagle to be doing better that it is. We are a little surprised. We don't know if it is the ick, or what it is. We will continue to talk about it postseason.

### Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Steve Smith** - I am the manager for the Yukon river for stock assessment and salmon enhancement. Updates.... Yukon River, Pelly river and Klondike are higher than average. Klondike may still be rising. As of last week, Klondike lake is low but within bounds of new normal since shifting of glacier waters. Salmon run and management, with below average forecast for 2020 with Pilot observations - conservative approach for Canadian fisheries for 2020. overarching objective is to respect conservation objectives within Yukon River salmon agreement. First nations fisheries are managed by first nations govts. Most recent run projections are significantly lower than preseason forecast. We will be monitoring to see what is available for harvest. informed by info collected at pilot. Chinook are around 15000 past Eagle, first count 1st of July. Significantly less than ... not normal - how the run entered river, high water throughout drainage. concerned about numbers at Eagle. Eagerly looking for numbers to climb.

**Michael Folks - Yukon River Chinook biologist for DFO** - This year and in general there are 5 projects specifically focused on counting Chinook salmon. Porcupine - Old Crow sonar. COVID-19 delayed start time of operation to assure measures in place for safety of community and staff. Not yet begun. Now permission to begin within the next several weeks. No estimates for passage of Chinook yet. Typically on July 28 we would have seen 3,000 fish pass. In 2019 we save 2,700 fish pass by on Porcupine. Klondike river sonar run by Trondek Gwichen. July 26th operational. 1,900 fish usually. This year only 270 fish have passed. Pelly River Sonar SElkirk nations. Years past 4,100. This year 1,500. Big Salmon sonar - private contractor - July 25th years past 1,000 fish. This year's counts indicate 153 fish. Whitehorse fish ladder operating for decades. Passage in history by 7/27 would be 3 fish. Currently none yet. All three are indicating counts significantly lower than what we have seen in years past.

#### **Questions and discussion:**

**Victor Lord- Nenana** - Basil in Russian Mission, they said they are waiting for Silvers (eating fall chum) to come. What are silvers? Stan, 50% ick? Is that right?

**Basil Larsen- Russian Mission** - Silvers = fall chum, big shiny ones. Coho = ones that look like Kings but are less abundant than fall chum.

**Stan Zurey- Rapids** - This isn't science. We would do most of our prevalence testing by observing. Below here it's hard to see disease and above here the fish start to disappear. I've been looking at fish with people that I cut with. It started with about 20%. I know what to look for. A lot of people don't know what to look for or don't see it. A lot of fish I cut, and are fine, but are positive. A lot of the fish the disease is being seen by a lot of people that didn't even believe in the disease. It is pretty severe this year. People that are saying they have 1 of 20 with ick, a lot of times they don't know what they are looking for, or can't see it in their hearts. Are only looking at the flesh.

**AI** - When this came up before I was working with DFO at the time. There was a protocol put in place to determine ICK. Is that protocol still in place? And if so, is ADF&G acting on it?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G**- Let Fred talk. I know there were studies in the past.

**Fred West- ADF&G** - At this point, we don't have a formal plan in place going into the season. but now that we have heard reports about its prevalence. We have some carcass surveys on

chena and Salcha. Tried to get some samples. May contact Stan directly and get some info from his sampling protocol. Trying to learn the prevalence he sees in his part of the river. It will become a postseason discussion (POST SEASON MTG TOPIC). We are looking into it and hope to dive into it more.

**Steve Smith- DFOC** - Speaking to history. I am currently a co-chair of the joint technical committee. Was in that position during the period Stan and Holly referred to. JTC did develop a protocol around ICH. Acknowledge Stan for all his work. Left protocol - work Stan was doing at Rampart Rapids - if 25% prevalence or more of ICK there would be more interesting additional research. Since that time many years have passed. Work that Stan does is on his own and not funded by panel or R&E. Appreciate hearing reports that Stan provides because of his expertise. Where we go from there - JTC will have an interest in discussing in terms of ways forward. Stan also mentioned the challenge in identifying it. Look for it in Canada - prevalence goes down. Speculate why - maybe # fish were less. No current mechanism or way to quantify those elements. ADFG interested, JTC likely interested in. What we may do going forward.

**Stan Zurey- Rapids** - I keep hearing what we did. I don't know if there were any other questions for me. I have that Yukon River panel technical review of paper and lot of good ideas in it. My name mentioned but I am basically a worker. I've been shown how to do certain things. In the late 1980s when Kocan came up here, fishermen were just trying to find out what was going on. 1989 when Kocan came up here. He has done a lot of research on this. He has done 100 papers and 20 had ick in the title. Research should be directed to him. The discussion in the ..... largely over contravened over whether fish make it to Canada. That is why he was not able to continue his research. He is a pathologist.

**Victor Lord- Nenana** - ADF&G, the numbers that got passed the chena river sonar, are the numbers poor?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - Unfortunately the sonar had to be pulled due to high water. Before that it was well below 650 what we should have been at. We expect the chum to arrive by next week. You should see a news release about that soon.

**Ted Hamilton- Alakanuk** - Did we ever find out where ICK came from and how the fish were getting it? Do they get it from the ocean?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - What I don't want to do is start a whole teleconference about ick. I know one of the ways is through food.

**Steve Smith- DFOC** - It has a life cycle, its vector is through food.

**Ted Hamilton- Alakanuk** - Is the hatchery fish forcing the other fish to each other things, which could be where they get it?

**Sonya** - I do have some ICK questions. I think the warmer water might be contributing to it. I think something is happening. We are seeing less than what Stan is seeing down there. Maybe that is what is happening between pilot and eagle.



**Pamela Cook from Alakanuk** - What is going on with our fish? I heard all of it but the mouth of the lower Yukon River. My first cousin's husband is doing the surveying in Alakanuk. What is being reported. I hear that there are low numbers of fish.

**Serena Fitka- YRDFA** - We have our teleconference summaries posted on our website, you can look at and you can look at ADF&G news releases that you can look at.

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - I think to speak generally, yes we are seeing low salmon runs. There are lots of factors that may be affecting salmon survival. WE cannot answer why on this teleconference. Instead of this teleconference we try to manage fishermen's expectations about how big the runs are and how this will affect their fishing.

**Pamela Cook- Alakanuk** - Disaster relief.

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - There are diff types of disaster relief. Cares act will become available.

**Pamela Cook- Alakanuk** - ADF&G Yukon River fishing Facebook page. Okay. Thanks just needed that for my folks back in Alakanuk as I am here in Anchorage.

**Norma Evan- Marshall** - I was just wondering about last year and the mortality with whales, without the whales eating the squid, maybe the squid are eating the salmon.

**Jessica Fields** - How accurate are the sonars during high waters?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - Great question. One of the things with sonars is each is a little different. In Eagle and Pilot we don't have to move them out fully, we just pull them onto shore. With Chena we have to actually remove. In Eagle and Pilot water levels don't affect counting of fish. As long as it can stay submerged and can see, it should be able to count the fish. What is really important is our ability to run the test fishery because that helps us apportion what the sonar is counting.

**Jessica Fields** - How are you accounting for the fish going up the porcupine?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - You may have heard that there was a sonar on the porcupine, we don't count that though, Canada keeps track of that. For us it is escapement at that point.

**Jessica Fields** - What about the fish going into any of the other smaller channels?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - We can't keep track of the fish going into each and every little channel. We try to monitor key systems. We know that the canadian origin is 40% and used to be 50%.

**Jessica Fields** - How will we practice our traditional ways, without fish? You are cutting us off completely, we have nothing.

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - appreciate those comments but we are not trying to stop traditional ways of fishing. There are 4 species of salmon that come up this river. We try to provide harvestable surplus. If these runs stop providing a harvestable surplus, what would you do? Would you harvest other species? When it comes to runs of this size, we aren't trying to stop people from fishing, we are trying to ensure the runs come back.

**Ted Hamilton- Alakanuk** - I'd like to respectfully disagree with the last two callers saying it is all ADFGs fault. ADFG is doing what we want them to do. We want this run to keep coming back. We can't blame the managers, we have to blame ourselves. The managers are not our problems. The managers are our friends.

**Martin** - If this year's numbers are less than 240,00 kings, compared to last year. even with strict closures. district by district. I've heard people saying they are starving. When folks have not met subsistence needs during this pandemic. I cannot emphasize that enough- food security. since time immemorial. applied to my friends from the mouth all the way up the headwaters. Bering sea fishers have been cited since 2007. King salmon has a life cycle of 7 years. It's been 3 life cycles. We see more jack kings returning. Something is broken on our record player that is not making sense. We are in a pandemic! If it is affecting the world around us, it should be affecting us here. Commercial fishery on the lower Yukon - there hasn't been any. Let's apply our efforts where it is really hurting us. Maybe we will make it to next Tuesday instead of thinking about our grandchildren.

**Sebastian Jones- Dawson** - I think it is time that we start to examine our whole escarpment goal approach here. When we look at the over enthusiastic goal last year (we didn't even make the bottom range), we mismanaged the run. It seemed like a good idea to conserve the chum too, but we didn't. After 2019 it seems logical that we would take a precautionary route for 2020. It doesn't look as though the chum is going to make it again. Missing an entire age class. Rather than move to a fall regulatory schedule, we have to be a lot more precautionary with the chums and the chinooks. Most of the pain has been taken by the upper river fishers. If we start off with a half schedule in the lower river, that means that district. Raising the escapement, the spawning grounds. It's like putting more money in the bank. an investment in the future. Now we are living on our credit. The bad interest is going to catch up to us. If we put more fish into the spawning grounds, instead of a bare minimum. In season management, I notice the caller from Eagle, who is providing her numbers, this tells me that it is possible for fishers in Alaska to report the numbers on a timely basis which would vastly improve in season management

- 1 increase spawning escapement goals
- 2 improve in season management

**Courtney- Tanana** - I'd like to piggyback off Sebastian. I'm in Tanana, district 5. Upriver district 1-4. they have been able to catch what they need and that is great. We have gotten our first closure. This is our second closure. where is the closure downriver. We are pushing for fairness. District 5 takes all of the brunt of conservation efforts. My friends upriver do not have fish to eat for the winter.

**Norma Evan- Marshall** - I live in Y2 and our community did feel the impact of conservation but we are not complaining. I harvested 8 king salmon. 6 were jacks and 2 3 years olds. I also got maybe 27 dog salmon. Our family processed them. OUR community of Marshall did not see their needs met. 30-40 % of their hopeful goals.

**Jude Hensler** - Are there test fisheries in conjunction with Canadian Sonars?

**Steve Smith- DFO**- How many age fish? Unfortunately I cannot recollect. They are sampling for age but that info is not available. And if it is, it is not available in season. ADFG does sample at Eagle Sonar site in season for age.

**Jessica Fields** - If no one did good with fishing on the whole river, where did all those fish go?

**Bill Alstrom- St. Mary's** - I've been listening, We had unusually high water all summer and it just started retreating. We've been having a hard time catching fish down here too. It must be the water conditions? When they first started coming they were calling them triclars. We had a lot of drift in all of June it seemed like. It is really hard on us too. Sometimes I think, did this ever happen before? Unusually high water during the summer. And then, where did all the fish go? In 2019 we had a bit of Kings pass the Pilot sonar and then they disappeared by the time they reached the Eagle sonar. That's a big gap. It has just been a bad year. Hopefully we won't see this in the future. We didn't see any summer chums, we don't know about fall chums. It's just been a bad year for everyone. When I sit beside my brothers from farther up the Yukon, it seems like it is harder and harder for them to catch. It's just been a bad year for everyone. I don't have all the answers but I believe that ADF&G are doing their duty. Hopefully the fish will come back in the future years. We can't just go fish whenever we want. That's just not the way to do it.

**Stephanie Quinn- YRITFC** - Thanks Bill. This is looking like 2013. King run looked like it was doing okay and then it came in lower than we expected. We failed to meet the border objective by 10,000. Even if Alaskan had taken NO fish we still would not have met the border objective. In 2014 tribes formed a fish commission based on unity and conservation. Tribes decided on a moratorium. management was very conservatibe. We had lower subsistence harvest. There was no protest fishing that year. We are facing this again. We cannot point fingers. Tribes have to come together if we have any chance to save the kings. Not just Alaska but also First Nations. We can point fingers are bycatch, upriver/downriver but it is not one thing that is causing the decline. We can't shut down bycatch to save the king salmon. Our oceans are warming. Our rivers are warming. Increased mercury is being released into our rivers from melting permafrost. Low king salmon numbers are not going away any time soon on the Yukon. We will have to find ways to adapt. That is hard. Emails, text messages and facebook messages. It makes me really sad but this is not going to go away anytime soon. We need to get together to help one another to make sure people have food. That is what the fish commission is going to do this fall. How do tribes support their traditional culture? Hurts my heart to hear what people are going through on the river. We need to come together and work together.

**Virgil** - What Stephanie just said is very true. When this happened it was 2000, 20 years ago. I was on the BOF when it happened and we were negotiating our treaty with Canada. We decided not to have commercial fishery in 2001. We put the windows in at that time. It was also the motivation to get the treaty agreed upon. The salmon treaty met in April and that's when it was signed. We agreed that we have to work together to solve the problems, or they will never be solved. We have to listen to Stephanie. The chum run was way worse in 2000. We need to remember and learn from our history.

**Rochelle Adams- Beaver** - Masi - acknowledge everyone up and down the river. My heart goes out to everyone. unfortunate that the year we are having (pandemic)and we are having trouble

feeding our families. I want to go to tribal knowledge. How is our tribal knowledge being included in management?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - I'm glad you re-asked that. Valuable question that people have been asking. ONE way we summarize the feedback we are given, YRDFA who put in funding for these calls. YRDFA is doing this for us, incredibly valuable. We sit on these calls, we go to communities, every time I get to see a piece of fishing equipment. Hard to say how that is.... What will be the effect of a closure this week, all this directly affects how we make our management decisions. I.E. high water , catchability of fish, unquantifiable but extremely valuable in decision making. Constant info in season that we get from multiple regions of the river. Does the sonar match what we are hearing.

**Rochelle Adams- Beaver** - Your teams of scientists, could it be that this traditional knowledge is getting lost in translation. There are people who live along the river, we've been here since time immemorial. We have managed to co exist and harvest and be the stewards of our land. That cultural knowledge outweighs the science. There should be more positions for people who live along the river. We need to re think this management plan because it is not working. I listen every week. my heart goes out to you. It is an honor to be able to still continue our traditional lifestyle. The sub users will be the ones to step back and have a moratorium. What about people who take fish before they even get into the river. We are just taking a few fish and they are taking thousands of fish. We are always the one to hold back, subsistence users. Bycatch needs to stop. And we need better numbers. They combine all kinds of fish together (bycatch). Seems like the fish are being caught before they get into the river and we are pitted against each other. Importance of traditional knowledge. We are walking history books. We are in tune with something that you can't understand by hearing a story. We are strongly connected to these waters. We need a bigger voice, we need more seats at the table. We need to look at that bycatch before we take subsistence off the table. We should be the last one to be restricted, not the first one. We are the ones who are facing closures. I strongly think we need to look at bycatch and commercial fishing. We need to be given a chance to steward our own river.

**Mickey Stickman- Nulato** - People think that in D4 we've harvested what we need, but it is not true. Our fishing windows were cut in half. The water was high. If you look at the calendars, our catch is probably about 25% of what we would normally catch. Even though we aren't complaining in D4, we struggled to get what we have. It is too bad that the fall chum run is looking really bleak, because a lot of people count on it. We don't have dog teams, but we still look forward to the fish. The high water and drift made it hard. But the researchers can look at our calendars and see that we didn't do as well as we've done in the past. I don't live in a fish camp until the ice runs anymore because of education requirements, but there are a lot of fish out there that we used to harvest that we aren't harvesting anymore. I think it is time for us to have a real honest moratorium on King Salmon if we are going to save them.

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - I don't have comments. I think it's great for people to express themselves.

**Stan Zurey- Rapids** - When we are talking about what needs to be done, people need to get together. a lot of things people attack like bycatch. for 19 years, before we saw a problem with

chinook. The pollock fishery took an average of 10,000 Chinook salmon from the Yukon River and no one disagreed with those numbers. At that time, we were protecting commercial fisheries. I am a commercial fisherman not against them but changing my mind. turned our head to that problem. At same time we were taking that much out of the river commercially. king salmon, shipping them off to Japan. Not admitting the fish were getting smaller even though the data was clearly showing that they were. Took forever to get management, scientists etc to agree that they were getting smaller. Reason we have this problem is because we didn't conserve, we didn't tighten our belts, we hid from a lot of things. I don't speak up a lot, that has been on my mind for 30 years. I spent every single day of every summer fishing. I live on the river. I ran my fish wheel for 4 month. This is something that I see.

???- There was mention that there are multitudes of reasons for the loss of salmon. What about Climate change? Is it being addressed? And what can people do about the issue?

**Holly Carroll- ADF&G** - I just want to quickly say, I know that we want to know reasons, but I think the elders and the fishers are telling us what we can do: take less fish. I know that's not what we want to hear, so we are looking at other things to change and do. I don't have answers for those questions. We are understanding these salmon runs and managing these runs. I can't stress enough, there is no way that we will have all the answers on this call. People that have been fishing for 30 years can say, " there aren't many fish, I need to take less fish" and I know that is what the elders are saying. That is the focus on what these calls should be.

**Stephanie Quinn- YRITFC**- Suggestions for how to address climate change. The great thing about salmon is they are incredibly resilient. We see this with natural disasters like landslides, etc. Salmon come back to those systems after time. Ways we can help salmon though this is to give them an opportunity to adapt to the changing climate. We make sure they have good clean spawning grounds. If you can give them good clean, cool low polluted water they will rebound. We need to protect habitat. aAnd we need to get them to the spawning grounds. It will take time, it's not going to happen in one lifecycle. We are not going to be able to stop mining companies, coal companies, to get people to stop driving their cars. But we can protect our spawning grounds and get those healthy big females to the spawning grounds.

**Serena Fitka- YRDFA** - you can email me at [serena@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:serena@yukonsalmon.org) and I will relay a question to the appropriate person.

**Virgil** - History, Hudson stuck. Fishery disaster in 1919. Archdeacon of episcopal church for Yukon, went to DC to testify before house and congress, congressman white was chairman. a lot of testimony similar to what is on call today. They also have influenza pandemic at the time. They stopped commercial fishing, called the White act. Testimony like commander at Tanana. They could not get any fish to feed their dog teams. Had to get 44 lbs of bacon out of seattle shipped up to feed the sled dogs. Salmon came back. What stephanie just said, will happen. It has happened before, it's just not pleasant to go through it.

End call 3:37