



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

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FWS/AEA

Yukon River Fishers, Yukon River Villages, Tribal Governments along the Yukon River, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, and First Nations of Canada along the Yukon River, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Program, National Wildlife Refuges along the Yukon River, Yukon – Charley Rivers National Preserve, State and Federal Law Enforcement staff serving the Yukon River

Dear Outstanding Partners:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is grateful to the many individuals, governments, non-government organizations, tribal consortia, and staff listed above for a cooperative fishing season on the Yukon River in 2014 during a time of conservation need.

The Yukon River is nearly 2,000 miles long with a drainage area 25% larger than the state of Texas. It is home to the Yupik and Athabascan peoples whose remote communities are dependent on Chinook Salmon to provide for nutritional and cultural needs.

Because the 2014 Yukon River Chinook Salmon run was anticipated to be extremely poor and potentially the worst on record, extremely challenging conservation measures were necessary. Maintaining a management course focused on meeting escapement objectives was only possible with the full cooperation and understanding of the Yukon River fishers, their villages, Tribes and Tribal consortia.

Yukon River fishers have been adaptable and have shown willingness in complying with management restrictions for several years now, and in many cases voluntarily reducing or even eliminating their Chinook Salmon harvests to help with these critical conservation efforts. These combined grass-roots conservation efforts allowed returning salmon to reach their spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada, helping to ensure future fish returns.

The Service joins the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in recognizing all individuals and organizations for your significant contribution to conservation of Yukon River Chinook Salmon. We feel honored in working with you and look forward to continuing this partnership this year and in years to come.

Sincerely,

Regional Director