



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

October 12, 2020

RE: Yukon River Fisheries Disaster 2020

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 2020 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, YRDFA will be taking the lead in working with the communities along the Yukon River during the Fishing Disaster Declaration process. YRDFA will be sending a sample resolution and cover letter to Tribal, Village Corporation, and City offices along the Yukon River to support the Yukon River Fisheries Disaster Declaration. Approved resolutions will be sent back to YRDFA to be compiled and sent to the Office of the Governor.

The Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) will be assisting YRDFA in this endeavor to provide for the economic loss of the Yukon River Commercial Fisheries. YRDFA, YRITFC and AVCP will be focusing on the economic and traditional value loss for the Yukon River subsistence harvest for 2020. Although subsistence declarations are not outlined in NOAA's Fisheries Disaster Declaration process, it is also not excluded, so we felt it was necessary to include the devastating subsistence impacts along the Yukon River.

2020, unfortunately, has been a very hard year for everyone on the Yukon River. The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association want to ensure everyone we are providing all the necessary support to all the communities we serve to the best of our abilities. We must all work together and support one another during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Serena Fitka  
Executive Director  
YRDFA  
PO Box 2898  
Palmer, AK 99645

Ragnar Alstrom  
Executive Director  
YDFDA  
2909 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Stephanie Quinn-Davidson  
Executive Director  
YRITFC/TCC  
201 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Suite 300  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Jennifer Hooper  
Natural Resource Director  
AVCP  
PO Box 219  
Bethel, AK 99559

<LETTERHEAD>

<DATE>

<TRIBE'S ADDRESS>

<Office of the Governor>

Dear Honorable Governor,

The <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 2020 fisheries season has put a great strain on the communities of the Yukon River. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game took a conservative approach with Chinook Salmon openings, which eventually was shut down when the estimates showed we would not meet the escapement goals for Canada.

The Yukon River communities rely on the summer and fall chum salmon to minimize Chinook salmon harvest during times of conservation. However, with the addition of the lowest run of summer and fall chum salmon on record, many communities were not able to harvest any species; both for commercial and for subsistence.

We urge you, Governor Dunleavy, to declare a Fisheries Economic and Subsistence Disaster for the Yukon River Drainage. The <TRIBE> has enclosed a resolution to support the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association in their efforts.

Sincerely,

President/Chief  
<TRIBE>

[letterhead]

2020-\_\_\_\_  
**2020 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 summer and fall chum salmon outlooks for 2020 were anticipated to provide for escapement, a normal harvest for subsistence, and a surplus for a commercial fishery; and,

WHEREAS, subsistence closures went into effect on June 18th in Yukon District 1 and 2 due to low returns of Chinook and summer chum salmon with continued closures up the Yukon River drainage; and,

WHEREAS, the amounts needed for subsistence were not met and harvests are estimated to be at most 20% 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 salmon fishing, fishers were required to release all incidentally-caught Chinook; and,

WHEREAS, commercial summer chum fishing consisted of two dip net openers followed by two gillnet openers and 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 <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 2020 fishing season.

APPROVED unanimously this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 by the <TRIBE> assembled at their Meeting held in \_\_\_\_\_, Alaska.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President/Chief

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary