



## YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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

August 26, 2016

Here is a summary of the Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference #12, held Tuesday, August 23, 2016. The toll free number is 1-800-315-6338 and the code is YUKON# (98566#).

**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. *The Teleconferences are funded by the Federal Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.*

### Communities participating this week:

**In Alaska:** Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross, Anvik, Koyukuk, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Tanana, Rampart, Nenana.

### Communities participating this week:

**In Yukon Territory Canada:** Whitehorse

### Yukon River Subsistence Reports: Alaska

**Alakanuk:** high water continues, fishing for Coho's and fall chum using 5.5"-6" gear. Many have met there subsistence needs, a few getting up fall chum for the table.

**Alakanuk #2:** high water, highest seen, staying up in Y2. Went down to Y2-some people did not have 5.5" gear. 1st time on conference in a while, need to get together to protect the Bering Sea.

**Mountain Village:** not much subsistence activities, rather poor conditions, rainy, high water and debris.

**Pilot Station:** not many harvesting fall chum, tail end of fall chum run, small skinny, colored. Rainy, windy-rough weather, steady water level, some debris.

**Marshall:** spoke with a few fishing families. One fisher reported 32 fall chum harvested. Many households still berry picking and moose hunting. Highest she has ever seen water this time of year, debris. Ten out of a hundred fish colored, humpies.

**Russian Mission:** pouring rain, debris, subsistence fishing yesterday-a lot out there, bad drying weather. People switching from blue to black berries to moose.

**Holy Cross:** rain, water high, too rough to fish, holding back.

**Anvik:** not much to report, everybody got needs met with earlier Chinook. As of today folks fishing on and off. Drift and water highest I've ever seen. Pretty satisfied and appreciative of king openings, folks surprised and thankful.

**Koyukuk:** not much going on, water up 3 feet, in 4hrs went up 6 inches, no fish, waters too high.

**Huslia:** earlier on thinks a lot of fishers made their subsistence needs, pretty happy about that. Rain for about 3-4 days, water coming up. People gathering a lot of berries.

**Allakaket:** water up a good bit, no fishing Some using rods for sheefish. No kings came up. Water going up on Alatna river, waiting for moose season. Rain has quit.

**Galena:** last week got 22 chum, high water now up another 3 feet, drift.

**Galena#2:** heavy rain. record 114.9" and still going up.

**Tanana:** very high water, no eddies, hard time catching fish for dogs, had to bring fishwheels up, might need a different gear type, some missed the kings and too high for silvers. Not much relief.

**Rampart:** water going down, 1 family fishing today.

**Nenana:** guest-Mike Carson-active fisher and processor/smoker. Rondell-getting active, chum run very big, water going down, not much drift, waiting for silvers, cutting wood and getting berries.

### **Yukon River Subsistence Reports: Yukon Territory, Canada**

Whitehorse: Jesse-1406 kings passed the fish ladder, high-water and grey clouds.

### **Questions for managers about assessment, run strength, timing, etc... for ADFG, USFWS or DFO in Canada:**

*Galena-listening-3<sup>rd</sup> pulse by sonar 8/10-373K to be in Kaltag today? J-on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-water level could slow them down, Galena 25th,*

*Koyukuk-comment-trying setnet the other day-too much moss fouled the net. At Bishop Mountain, too much drift to put nets in.*

*Alakanuk-Bering Sea-huge ship to Nome- over 1000 people-more coming, habitat out there-need to make sensitive habitat protected. Very concerned about the Bering Sea, especially...*

*?-having trouble with net? Sink them down low. H-these are full size trees with lots of roots. No eddies, F-a lot of times we catch the debris with nets on the bottom.*

*Marshall-management question-over the years collecting data, last call-agency using unrestricted gear for collecting data. By the time you get it and to the people on the river. Would like to see an understanding of that data. For collecting for the river. When next generation tries to understand, nothing changes, when I see data collection every fisherman relates to what's going on.*

*Alakanuk-wanted to make the point on essential habitat out there. On land we have all kinds of protected lands. What do we have for the Bering Sea? Need protection for fish.*

*Marshalls-question is with 42K escapement goal-with all the fish that passed Pilot Station, would that number change? Historically-looking at printout-met their goals through the management. B-in AK do not know yet, with this big of a run, a good chance, still do not know about Fishing Branch, Porcupine in Canada. M-just wanted to know about escapement-does it match the high numbers coming through Pilot Station, Mountain?*

*Holy Cross-thanks management team for this summer's king summer fishing. Folks are very happy for that.*

*Mountain Village-observation to share-down in Emmonak, last opening Sunday, Y2-I fish in 12-23' deep water, for 8 hr. period, got 32 Coho. Brother fishes in the same area- fishing 4-11 feet same time period got 120 Coho. Opening before that we both fished he got 100, I got 20 Coho. Coho prefer shallower water. I think ADFG said Coho below historic level, are they fishing shallow? J-have 2 test fisheries and yes we drift in shallow areas.*

**Fisheries management from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game:**

For Alaskan management regulation announcements, news releases and most current updates for the fishing season, please visit on the web:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main> or call toll-free 1-866-479-7387 for recorded fishing schedules and assessment information.

For Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada updates, please visit:

<http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm>

or call toll-free 604-666-2828 or 866-431-3474 for recorded fishing schedules and information.

For further information, please contact the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at 907-272-3141 or look for us on the web at [www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org).

Please join us on the next teleconference, Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Canadian time) and THANK YOU for participating!

Wayne Jenkins  
YRDFA Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "W" and "J".

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



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**2016 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 38  
Fall Update # 5, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery  
Districts Affected: Yukon Area**

**Fall Season Assessment**

The 2016 fall chum salmon run projection, based on inseason assessment, is for a run size greater than 1 million fish. The estimated fall chum salmon run size (based on the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station and the downstream harvest) through August 21 is 1,100,000 fish, which is above the historical median of 642,000 fish for that date. The fall chum salmon run reconstruction is past the average three-quarter point date, which occurs on August 19 based on median run timing.

The first pulse of fall chum salmon entered the Yukon River on July 18 and is expected to be approaching the Canadian border around August 22. The second pulse of fall chum salmon entered the river on July 30 and is expected to be near the communities of Rampart on August 22, Fort Yukon on August 29 and the Canadian border around September 5. The third pulse of fish began entering the Yukon River on August 10 and was sustained over nine days and the front end is expected to be near Kaltag today August 23, near Ruby on August 27 Tanana/ Hulsia on August 30, near Fort Yukon on September 9 and near the Border on September 9. On the Tanana River the second pulse may arrive around August 22 at Manley and August 25 near Nenana and the third pulse would be expected to be in those areas around September 2 and September 5 respectively. Another pulse lasting only two days entered the Yukon River over the weekend, upper river should see a fairly steady passage of fish from the entrance of the third pulse. Timing of the pulses has been adjusted some for slower travel rates due to the high water.

The coho salmon outlook is for an average return. The primary parent year for coho salmon this season is from the escapements of 2012. The estimated coho salmon run size index (based on the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station and the downstream harvest) through August 21 is 90,000 fish, which is slightly below average based on the historical median of 99,000 fish for

that date. The average median date for coho salmon run size index is typically August 23 at the mainstem sonar. A first pulse of coho salmon arrived in the lower Yukon on August 14 and a group came in this weekend as well.

### **Fall Assessment Projects**

#### Lower Yukon River Cooperative Fall Drift Test Fishing/ADF&G, YDFDA

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through August 22 was 1,580.05, which is above the historical median of 1,139.80 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through August 22 was 212.08, which is below the historical median of 298.96 for this date.

#### Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing/Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE for the project through August 22 was 2,512.37, which is above the historical median of 1,504.87 for this date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE for the project through August 22 was 278.13, which below the historical median of 571.52 for this date.

#### Sonar Project near Pilot Station/ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 21 was 830,000 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 529,000 fish for this date. The cumulative coho salmon passage estimate through August 21 was 56,000 fish, which is below the median passage of approximately 72,000 fish for this date.

#### Chandalar River Sonar USFWS

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage estimate through August 21 was 17,659 fish, which is above the median passage of approximately 12,981 fish for this date.

#### Age Composition Fall Season/ADF&G

The preliminary fall chum salmon age composition from the LYTF 6-inch drift gillnets indicates the run is dominated by age-4 fish, which is typical. However, this year's age-4 component is well above average, indicating improved production of the 2012 parent year. The 2016 preliminary proportion of age-4 and age-5 fish is 79% and 18% respectively compared to the average of 64% age-4 and 34% age-5 fish based on a samples size of 778. Females represent 53% of the 961 fish sampled which is below the average of 57%.

#### Stock Identification

Genetic samples of fall chum salmon taken at the mainstem sonar test fishery between August 8 and August 21, including the extended third pulse, were just sent to the laboratory. The mixed stock analysis will be reported in next week's update.

### **Fall Season Management Strategy**

The Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, 3, and Subdistrict 5-D as well as the Innoko and Koyukuk Rivers were initially placed on their full regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedules of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the fall season. As a result of the Chinook salmon restrictions put in place in the Yukon Area this season, the department increased the opportunity to harvest fall chum salmon for subsistence use. Subsistence salmon fishing has been liberalized to seven days per week, 24 hours per day in District 4 and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. District 6 currently remains on their standard regulatory schedules. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with 7.5 inch mesh or smaller during the fall season.

## **Summer Assessment Project**

### Eagle Sonar / ADF&G

The Eagle sonar project began operations on July 1, which is one of the earliest start dates since the project began in 2005. Approximately 72,000 Chinook salmon have been counted at the sonar project as of August 14, which is above the historical cumulative average of 57,000 for this date. Chinook salmon passage has exceeded the Interim Management Escapement Goal into Canada (42,500–55,000 fish) and provides a sufficient surplus for the Canadian Total Allowable Catch harvest share.

## **Current Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

**Coastal District** (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to Point Romanof and including all state marine waters):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**District 1** (including the Black River) and **District 2**:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods.

**District 3**:

Subsistence salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**Innoko River**:

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**District 4** (from ¾ mile downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Illinois Creek, which includes all adjacent tributaries and the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

Drift gillnet fishing is open **only in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek.** Drift gillnets may not exceed 25 fathoms in length.

**Koyukuk River**:

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

**District 5** (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the following locations: Between the western tip of Garnet Island and the Dall River (Dalton Highway bridge area) and from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

**Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B** (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River, which includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays, with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Kantishna River is open on its regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

The Old Minto area is open on its regulatory schedule of five days per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Permits are available from the ADF&G office in Fairbanks. Subsistence fishermen fishing in the upper portion of Subdistrict 6-B, from three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough to Wood River, are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

**Upper Tanana Area** (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Northway, and the Tok area):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Fishermen may use fish wheels and gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

A subsistence fishing permit is required to fish in the Upper Tanana River Drainage.

**Subdistricts 6-C** (from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal use salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 12:00 p.m. noon Sunday and from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesday. Fishermen may use 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.

A reminder to fishermen that a personal use salmon fishing permit and a sport fish license are required to fish in Subdistrict 6-C of the Tanana River. Fishermen are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, please provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

### **Commercial Fishing:**

#### **Fall Season Commercial Salmon Fishing**

The fall chum salmon commercial fishing season is open in Districts 1, 2, and 6 as well as Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. It is expected that Districts 1 and 2 will fish a two-period per week schedule through most of the season. However, commercial fishermen should be on standby as the scheduling of periods in these districts may be adjusted with short notice when pulses of fall chum salmon are moving through the area.

#### **District 1, including the Set Net Only Area Commercial Fishing:**

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest in District 1 through August 19 is 164,420 fall chum and 13,337 coho salmon.

#### **District 2 Commercial Fishing:**

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest in District 2 through August 19 is 154,692 fall chum and 13,337 coho salmon.

#### **Subdistrict 5-B, and 5-C Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Commercial fishing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week until further notice. Fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with 6 inch or smaller mesh size.

The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest through August 22 is 2,106 fall chum salmon.

#### **District 6 Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Commercial fishing in District 6 is open for two 42-hour fishing periods per week on the following schedule with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels:

- 6:00 p.m. Mondays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Fridays, until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays

No commercial harvest for District 6 has been reported at this time.

All Yukon Area commercial fishermen should confirm their market prior to commercial fishing.

Processors, catcher sellers, or direct marketers must notify the department of their intent to operate by contacting the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All fish species harvested and not sold must be recorded on the fish ticket as “caught but not sold”.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320, the ADF&G office in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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