

Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 7th Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Call lasted 56 minutes.

Background: Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually on 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 US Department of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management.

Media participating: KZPA radio-Fort Yukon, KEAA radio-Eagle

Communities participating this week:

Alaska Communities: Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Saint Marys, Marshall, Russian, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Huslia, Alatna, Ruby, Rampart, Fort Yukon, Eagle, Manley Hot Springs

Yukon Territory Canada Communities: Dawson, Teslin, Whitehorse

Subsistence Reports:

Alakanuk: Pam-20 households contacted, interviewed 15. 5 fished. Really low tides, calm winds. Fishers were catching a lot, like 7.5" net and drifting. Kings in good condition and chum also. Found a hole in the chum and gave to dogs. Fishing has really slowed and all waiting for fall chum. Folks are 50-70% done with subsistence. Some would like more Kings. Can we use dip nets and gill nets at the same time? Please pray for a missing person from our village, that we find him. Thanks.

Mt. Village: Eugene-most have caught their salmon for subsistence. Not many boats out due to rain, not good drying weather. River dropped a good bit. Did not send in survey due to low number of boats. Noticed some of the chum already turning color.

St. Marys: Bill-not much to report, water dropping, chums in the river.

Marshall: Norma-14 households contacted, 4 fished, Very thankful for opportunity to bring home Kings from commercial harvest. Water dropping. Most over 50% subsistence done. Happy to get kings. Half Kings were females. Most families switching to berry harvest, salmon berries almost ready. 1 week to harvest them.

Russian Mission: Basil-high water. 7.5" & 6" opening, a lot of fishing. Due to low numbers half the camps reducing summer harvests by a third. Done with summer fishing and moving toward fall chum. All thankful for going to 7.5". A lot of fish in the river. Community sad about low numbers of Kings. No drift.

Kaltag: Christine- Interviewed 12 fishing families, half done. I am 75% done. Quality going down. Some sheefish harvested but not a lot. At end of second pulse, maybe over. It's been good, even with the restrictions.

Nulato: Arnold-many families getting what they need, successful and satisfied, good season.

Koyukuk: Ben-last opening village got 200 kings, water steady.

Huslia: Lisa- 10 fishers contacted, 6 interviewed, 5 fished, most said better fishing. Using 6" and 7.5". 25% done with chum. Water high and with rain. A few Kings in good condition.

Alatna: Gerard-water really high. One family in fish-camp caught one king, others still trying.

Ruby: Ed-fishers have at least half Kings folks want. Looking forward to next opening. Pretty good considering weakness of the run.

Rampart: Brook-5 families fishing. Size and quality varies. Was better, earlier. Water high. 1st puss pocket seen on a fish.

Fort Yukon: Andrew-10 fishers interviewed, 9 fished last opener, some having problems looking for spots. Most catches in single digits. One good day and then dropped off. One reported close to being done. Water high, light debris.

Eagle: Jon-community just starting to fish this week. 5-6 households. River a bit high, medium drift.

Sonja, upset about Eagle sonar research project that will harvest 250 female King salmon! We have 6 kids and fish, and voluntarily. Upset about harvest of 250 fish for sex research. That's 8 years of my families needs. No local outreach and bad for conservation. Not good for kids to see. Money should have been better spent by purchasing fish from local fishers. They want to redistribute the fish and I will not take those fish. Local people were not contacted. Would like to know the normal number and why would Canadians support this?

Manley: Dorothy, not fishing. Might be one person. River is high.

Dawson: Al-fish just showing up, water going down.

Teslin: James-no report.

Whitehorse: Steve-mixed weather, hot then cold with rain. Water near normal. Waiting.

Questions and discussion:

Sonya-still have concerns, outreach did not reach me and many in the community. Cannot see justification for this study, especially in a low subsistence year. I think you should work with fishers for supplying fish. I feel betrayed. Have had years we chose not to fish, the kids did get to camp. This is going to cause resentment locally. It's a big deal for us.

Micky-another opening tomorrow, hopefully 48 hrs? Folks have not met their needs. After July 14 after drifting, can we do setnet for Kings? As folks did not fully meet their King, with chum being down, hope managers don't open up commercial too much. We all know if we do not get the Kings, we depend on the fall runs. More openings with 6" then relaxed to regulatory? Sunday 7/16, may be some kings at the end of the run. You are allowed to use set and drift, complicated. Last year BoF allowed further up river. Fall staff looking to be careful and hoping for full subsistence. Christi-give a call to Fairbanks Micky. M-Water has been high for the whole King season. Got about half what we normally get. Try to help others but can only help one person and small donation to the Elder center in Galena.

Gale-for Fred, comps on Chinook? Fred: 11% age 4, 49% age 5, 38% age six, 1% age 7

Norma, was the Chinese boat catching Yukon fish?

Fred-Fukushima, would that affect our fish? Holly-Dept of Environmental Conservation checks this and they have found no problems in Alaskan fish.

Andrew-why are our fishing schedules the same as Eagle? Holly-started your closure on different dates. We relaxed your schedule and you are fishing on a different part of the run.

Bill-the comments by the lady in Eagle-research fish distributed. The test fisheries contribute the fish to elders and are really appreciated by subsistence folks that cannot fish. Think program should continue. Its a tool ADFG uses to track whats going on in the river. Have to disagree with the lady in Eagle.

Ben-last 10 years we have been catching 4-5 yr olds which do not go out to the Pacific. Have no more 7 and 8 yr olds. How much % return from North Pacific? Only 5 % female we catch. Holly-you're right, our runs are getting younger, no 8 year olds. When you only catch small fish, that's likely due to 6" gear., designed to catch smaller fish. We are looking at juvenile survival in the Bering Sea.

Polty-is it proven that 7 & 8 year olds not returning? Holly-When we age a fish, we age using the scales. Yes, we are seeing fewer 6 & 7 year olds. P-fished all my life and notice 7.5" net kills fish.

Joanne in Eagle-the village was approached and one condition was sharing of the fish with folks that do not get fish. We have shared chunks of fish and they are thankful. We're trying to help people out. If this project will help improve the runs, that's good. A lot of discussion at the council level to find solutions. Put flyers up. Just call us with any questions.

Rachel: listening to Ben on and the bluebacks. Sunday, the best opener yet, what we had been waiting for! Some went home after an hour, so happy, all they need for the winter. Big-big Kings. First time we have seen that this year. On the Ruby side no one gets the big fish. Which sides you fish must matter. The darker fish. Opposite side the silver, really big fish. What side of the river Ben do you fish on? Last openers July 2-5, not good. Water high and debris tangling nets. Fishers do not want to share their info.

Virgil-on Ruby side you are catching Tanana river fish. Opposite side are the Canadian bound fish. Next week Board of Fish meeting will address questions about age of the fish and size and competition with hatchery in the ocean.

Pamela-5 kings shared and eggs very big.

Dorothy-finally getting your daily reports, yea. Temps lower than it has been. Holly-temps have been about average from our data.

Further 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. Also visit our Facebook page and "Like us" at: <https://www.facebook.com>

For Alaskan Yukon River fishery management information, please visit:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.interior>

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.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/fmcountingfac.htm>

Please join us on the next teleconference, Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Yukon time). As a reminder, the toll free number is 1-800-315-6338 and the code is YUKON# (98566#).