



Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 12th, 2020 Yukon River Salmon PostSeason Management Teleconference held Thursday, December 17th, 2020. Call lasted 180 minutes. 47 callers participated

Background: Yukon River Salmon PostSeason Management Teleconferences are held annually for managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies from that year's season. Funded by the Pacific Salmon Commission under the Restoration and Enhancement Grant.

Media participating: None

Political Representatives participating: None

Communities participating this week: 9

Emmonak

St. Mary's

Holy Cross

Russian Mission

Rampart

Tanana

Nenana

Flats

Whitehorse

Community level reports:

District 1-Coastal/Lower Yukon

Allen Hansen - I spoke with fishermen from my area. They all reported very low numbers of salmon coming into the river. They are predicting the same amount of run that we had last year but there was no fish. Stanley Pete and I discussed this and wondered why. We note that there were pods and pods of beluga whales at the south mouth. We thought maybe that was why the salmon didn't come into the river. I'm used to seeing 30 or 40 but there were hundreds of them. He reported that while he was watching his net, he had a short king salmon net. He reported that he saw a king salmon jump out of the water and a beluga jump out after him. Wonders is NOAA or the Whale commission can get involved. Send some scientists this spring

to take a look at this. Also, all the commercial fishermen were really bewildered about no salmon on the river this year. The subsistence fishermen said that there were more king salmon than summer and fall chum salmon this year. Everyone around our area, Y1, did NOT meet their subsistence needs. So they are doing alternate fishing now for whitefish, etc.

Paul Andrews - Emmonak - I agree with what Allen said regarding low numbers. Him talking about the whales, I think that is a very big factor. Salmon are very afraid of them. Some hunters looked in a whale's stomach and they were salmon that were still alive, so they were good to cook and eat. Very few people got their needs on subsistence. It was very hard for everyone to even ask for dried salmon, it was embarrassing because we usually get our own. Next year, we should start earlier when the salmon start coming into the river.

District 2-Coastal/Lower Yukon

Bill Alstrom - St. Mary's - I serve as the lower river Co-Chair for YRDFA. I have to agree with Paul and Allen and their reports for the lower river. In Y1, salmon were very scarce this summer. A few times, I had to make quite a few drifts just to catch what I needed for the winter. It was very slow. There were a few kings out there. Like Allen said, it seemed like there were more kings than chums this year. They usually run with the kings and we didn't see any. They usually come in after the king run. That was a big question mark among all the fishers in this part of the river. We had a lot of fish racks that were empty in this part of the river. We had our pandemic on top of all that. We also had very high water after breakup and it continued for the rest of the summer. That made it very difficult for some fishermen who usually drift, to catch any fish, although most of that may have had to do with so few salmon in the river.

Michelle Peterson - The last fishing season this summer, I didn't get to subsistence this year because my mom has strong cultural values and it was still my dad's one year so we didn't do any subsistence. I'm a little further up from Emo. So I wasn't aware of the belugas eating the salmon down there.

District 3-Coastal/Lower Yukon

Alfred Demientieff - Holy Cross - Our report is that about 15 fishers all summer and there were no fish coming up the river. Every time we had our 18 hour opening, it was like combat fishing because of the high water. For the whole summer, I don't think anyone caught over 15 salmon. The water was really high. Every time the Yukon is high, there is no fish. Maybe they are swimming up the wrong river.

Victor asks who fished the Paimuit slough - Alfred said the water changed and no one fishers there now.

Basil Larson - Russian Mission - It was pretty much the same here as everywhere else. There were actually a couple of families who took the summer off to go after the fall fish but that didn't happen. There was one family who put a net in after the fall season ended and he got enough fall fish to make half dried. And he got enough kings also that were good. We have dogs so we have a 4" net every day. I had to ask the manager if I could set my net and she said I could 1 mile up a tributary for pikes. I am still getting fall chum and cohos and a couple old sockeyes.

District 4a-Upper Yukon

Fred Huntington Sr. - I was fishing. I had 2 partners. We shared gas and a boat. We had an 18 hr opening and we probably caught 50 kings. 15 of them were discarded or cut for dog food. There was a lot of debris in the river, a lot of sticks under water for drifting. People were getting their nets hung up. Galena has a large amount of fisheries. 40-50% of the fishermen didn't get any fish out of the king salmon run. Then we were expecting the fall chum run, we estimated what the pilot station sonar was saying and when they'd be in Galena. I went out to different spots all the way down to Nulato. I got one fall chum and then it closed off. A lot of folks in Galena are doing without fish right now. It's a critical time between

Districts 5a, b, c & d

Charlie Wright - Rampart - This past season the king salmon fishing was tough, high water, when we had our opportunities to fish, the fish were full of ICH. Some of the fish literally stunk. We got 3 poles of dried fish. Fall chums didn't show up either and the ones that did were in bad shape. Nothing out there. Except whitefish which were good but nothing else. Just before the ice we checked and there were good whitefish in the river. Not many coho. After the annual meeting with YRDFA I've been thinking we need to share the fish with our cousins up in Canada. We had a long conversation about this. I would NOT like the bottom number to get any smaller. Life is hard on the river. Most people have eaten all the fish they have caught for the year. And the moose are scarce. Times are tough.

Stan Zuray - Tanana - Spent another 4 months at fish camp and ran fishermen's survey program at Rapids. YRDFA's in season survey program. King salmon were a complete bust for everyone. A lot of closures. Most fishermen thought that was needed. Not complaining about that. Few times there were openings, the fish did seem larger which we attributed to the closed times. In 2009 had a big increase in size of fish coming up the river. I do personal ICH monitoring and last summer saw a lot more. I have run programs with funding before and this one was just personal. Once I saw the early ICH in the early summer, I kept doing it all summer. I saw the most of any monitored year in 10-13 years. The fall chum was completely closed and that caused most kennels to reduce in half by the time winter began. I went from 14 dogs to 6 dogs. Thanks to Stephanie, who personally and Purina and the shipping companies that got that dog food shipped into the village. We now have enough food to keep the dogs that we have. I agree with Charlie about the escapement goals. This is not the time to reduce it. Unless we want to just give up on the king run, which I do not. We need to give some fishermen some fish or we will lose the lifestyle. We saw this in 2013. I expect some camps will close next year. I do not plan to put my fish wheel in the river, I will just use a net. Really we need to be getting those fish to the spawning grounds. We need to get those fish to the border.

Districts 6a, b & c

Victor Lord- Nenana- I didn't go out with my boat but monitored. There were a few guys fishing. They built a wheel. They got some king salmon but not as much as they are used to. Another guy gave me some smoked dried king salmon and it was real good. Excellent dried fish. There were a couple guys going upriver setting nets. There was fishing effort, but pretty slow really.

Koyukuk River -

Andrew Firmin - Flats - I don't have much to say now but can chime in later.

Canada

Al Von Finster - Whitehorse - In the Yukon Territory, we are set up almost like you are in Alaska, with the sonar in Eagle that informs the coming districts. Unfortunately the people in Dawson don't know how the run is going to be. If the run doesn't show up much they are the only people who get to fish. Right to fish of first nations, conservation concern but not in law, you have to act on it. Fall chum was so poor at Pilot. Before it got far we asked them not to fish. Followed up with notice that allocation for fall chum is zero. All the way around there was not much fish, In Dawson, there were a few fish but what it seemed to be was a couple people hit the fish when they were there, some only caught sticks because water was so high. A little bit of aboriginal fisheries, but again pulling sticks. Poor year for fish and fisheries.

Management Reports:

Summer Season Overview:

Deena Jallen ADF&G - Acting Yukon River Summer Season Salmon Manager - *Steadily getting into fall season. The Lower Yukon is in fall management, the upper river is still in summer. Last week actually, there were fall chum in the river.*

Holly Carroll USF&W - Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries Manager- *Preliminary projection, inseason data , more available. Salmon dominated by age 4 fish. Poor survival is indicted. Lack of age 4 expected to result in lower abundance.*

Gerald Maschmann USF&W - Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries Assistant Manager- *First fall chum came in, wasn't very big, but we are keeping an eye on it and the weather. Aren't seeing the winds right now. It is common to have the lull between runs, which looks like what we are seeing right now. As migration reaches other areas, they will start seeing fall management.*

Questions and Discussion:

Roberta Alexie - Y2 - Subsistence and commercial fish wheels up river - releasing fish. Can we do that down here in the lower river.? I know when the water is high, the fish count is low. Elders say that when the water is high, the fish go into the channels.

- **Deena ADF&G:** We don't always say it in announcements but fish wheel can be used in lower Yukon. If we know you want to we can mention it. Other selective gear types. Would need to look into commercial use. But for subsistence fish wheels can be used throughout the drainage.

Fred Huntington - Comments for Holly - Last couple of years there were king salmon hitting Pilot station sonar in abundant numbers. In the past we have been shutting down fishing on the first pulse for our 10 years. We know that there are kings coming up. You say that 50% of the early kings are going to Canada. But when you see fish coming early on, that is because they are going to Alaskan tributaries. I was told years ago that we should not pick on only one run, like

the early run. But that is what is happening, (when we do not fish on the first pulse) fish are going to other streams more like Koyukuk etc. Now we are seeing less king salmon going to Canada but the other streams are doing good.

- **Holly USFWS:** You are spot on, let me back up and say if we have to do a closure it is because the state requires it. But you are right we found that is not the best approach. Better to take a bit of the whole run. The run is not 50% Canadian. More around 40%. Was trying to imply if the forecast was low it may require a first pulse closure. Our hands may be tied if the forecast is too small.

Fred Huntington - I have fished out of Galena for 50 years, I was out on the river with my step parents when I was 13 years old. We fish on the south side, Tanana run. A lot of those fish are getting close to spawning time. Compared to the other fish going up the Yukon. The ones we drift for in front of Koyukuk are big round, fresh fish. Different ones. Why shut down fishing site when fish are pretty well spawned out. By that time our fisheries are near 100% complete but we do not take more than what we need or can handle.

Basil Larson: Echo Fred on Alaskan stock, two villages above Pilot station sonar. My traditional fishing spot, 5 mile stretch of beach, when you see one boat it probably has four houses represented in it. We all share spots. Three main spots. We see all stocks of salmon down this way, does not mean we nail them. Go after chum, kings are a bycatch. This summer was awkward because there was no summer chum or very little. Caused a lot of camps to wait till fall and then there was no fall. Echo Fred about Alaskan stock, pretty strong. Maybe management will have to adjust to give us a bite out of those pulses as they are passing.

- **Deena ADF&G** - We didn't have a lot of weirs and other projects this season, due to Covid. And we usually have towers on the Chena and Salcha but they are affected by high water. We did have some aerial surveys. We did not see a lot of salmon in the tributaries.

Al Von Finster - DNA analysis will give indication of how many fish came into Canada. They contribute to the river above Tanana. I would be careful about jumping to the conclusion that it is missing from Canada. When we saw the failure of Chinooks fishery and chums, hoping you are able to get more insight into what happened this year and use it to plan for the coming years. Nice to have more rational use of fisheries. For agency and other staff, it has been difficult this year. Some agencies were not able to maintain and support camps.

Alfred Demientieff: Why does Y3 have 18 hour open when others have 24 open? When we have our open there is no fish. All summer no one is catching fish. Why are we only allowed 18 hours?

- **Holly USFWS:** Better question for Deena, has to do with state regulation.
- **Deena ADF&G:** What we did was look at regulatory schedules that were put in place in 2001. For reduced schedules we cut normal schedules in half. Lower in the river you see all stocks of fish come by, should have more dense numbers compared to farther up the river. They need more time to get the same opportunities.
- **Holly USFWS:** To follow up to another part of your question. Really good comment, Y3 people reporting terrible luck, just no fish present. One man said he caught 1 fish after

fishing for 8 hours. That schedule is set on days of the week. We are not trying to chase the fish. Problem with set schedule, if there is a pulse moving through, it may not hit you in your village but may hit the next village. Luck of the draw but sometimes it seems like the other village always gets them. Set schedule allows you to plan your schedule and allows some fish to move through untouched.

Alfred Demientieff: Holy Cross had bad luck all summer.

Carrie Stevens: My husband is a traditional fisher in Stevens Village. I am not sure if the state or the feds are listening. I don't feel that you even really hear us on the river. Do you understand poverty? People do not have money for gas to fish when there is not any fish. We do not want to take more than they need. They do not want to see the fish not return for their children. Luck of the draw and fishing windows waste time. I ask state and managers how they plan to address that. Employees need to work with the tribal government. Each community knows when the fish are there to take the fish and share the fish. Hard to listen to these types of comments for years. We caught $\frac{1}{5}$ of catch for at least 6 households. Felt lucky to have any fish at all. Most caught $\frac{1}{4}$ to nothing. Still confused to why people think king salmon is the only salmon we can catch. There are no summer chum, fall was shut down. When fall is open only the first run is for human consumption. Frustrating hearing the same comments for 20 years. Comments are ignored. Poverty is not understood, to imply that we can waste gas when there are no fish, it is an insult. Still hear the same comments from state and feds, not understanding. No way to go through with our own government structures. Think others on the call feel this way. How does the state and feds plan to work in the future with communities so you don't have to hear this for the rest of your career?

Alfred Demientieff- Thanks for your comments Carrie

Martin - Pilot Station - comment for Holly and Deena. Reiterating what everyone else has stated, past summer season, on record we did have really high water. The entire summer going through fall. I haven't had the chance to go up the sonar project to go check in and see how everyone is doing with the sonar. I usually go up and look at the didson and side scan sonar. I expect they have even better tools today. Every time I get on the teleconference, I make a statement that we do catch a lot of Jack king salmon. They are like 10-12 pounds and they can be mistaken for summer chum. With all the closures going on up and down the river, ADFG is not going to compensate me. Especially with our cost of living. We should all be aware of the fact that we are in a pandemic. Pilot station had it bad. I don't know any subsistence user that has gotten any help. The teleconferences are for us subsistence users. Thinking about what everybody else is saying, the last 15-20 years, I know how much of an impact high water has on us. Back to 1988 when the sonar was pointed into the mud. It's really important, you can't replace whatever loss I had for my entire family, my community. There are no special food boxes coming in. There are 20 people with under the ice nets and I bet every community has that situation. If we are going to be restricted to 4" it better be equal all the way around.

- **Deena ADF&G:** I am not an expert on Pilot station sonar. Does use a wide range of mesh size, try to get a representative number. The fish they catch in the net they use to estimate. We know Pilot station is an estimate. Past years have been challenging. Late runs of chum and not overlapping with the kings like they used to. Trying to adapt to

these changes. In an ideal year, this is a lot easier. In a good year 5B district is open 7 days a week. When the runs are not strong enough we have to make hard decisions. Our first priority is the numbers of salmon and getting them to the spawning grounds.

Fred Huntington- Listening to what is being said, knowing what the harvest is for the subsistence fishermen on the river. Not only, knowing that over the last 30 years, the decline of all salmon species, affecting fishermen on the river. Pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea are still raping the ocean, fishing with a sock and filling it up with whatever fish is in the ocean. They only use the Pollock and the rest of the fish are considered bycatch. The fish are damaged by the fishing nets. We don't have representatives from subsistence fishing, and they don't ever come to see what we are sacrificing for our harvest. They need to be accountable for the bycatch they are throwing overboard. Since 1992, there has been a decline. There are counters monitoring but they have no history of being as accurate as they claim to be. We have been sacrificing but they have not been equal with us.

Holly USFWS: Address Carrie's comments. First thank you Carrie. We do care what is said on these teleconferences. Take it to heart we appear to seem condescending. This is your forum to give us feedback and we need to hear the feedback. We write down everything you say. We are torn sometimes because we don't know if we need to provide the answers to the questions you asked without sounding like we are trying to get the last word on everything. One of the comments you brought up, what are we going to do work with the tribes for the areas we manage. What I learned from Canada, the tribes have their own management plans. That is not the way the state law is setup. The federal law is also set up that way, regulations we have to adhere to. Have a mandate to work with tribes and provide access. I like your ideas that communities can come up with their own management plans. I think that is a great idea, come up before. Not everyone in the community agrees but it starts a discussion. The fish commission is hopefully doing that work to unite tribes and reach out to agencies. If there is more we should be doing or work more directly we would like to have that discussion with you, meet and talk on the phone. We have a lot to learn. I appreciate your comments and would like to hear the conversation change and what we can do to help that. Thank you again.

Stan Zuray - I like what I hear coming from Carrie, and also what I hear coming from people like Holly. I think everybody is expressing the frustration that fishermen are feeling right now up and down the river, and rightfully so. Their lifestyles are changing because of the situation. ADFG is in a tough position being the bad guys having to shut down the fishery. But the fact of the matter is, we are in a different position than we were 20 years ago. I have been on the river for 45 years and 11 of it was on the spawning grounds. And the rest of the time I was on the river 4 months every year. 20 years ago when we were getting 3 and 400,000 king salmon on the river. It was suggested that we shut down king fishing entirely for a cycle of fish. That is how much we thought the run was in trouble. A lot of people on the river tried to reduce mesh, reduce fishing time, have windows, pulse protection. To me, ADFG deserves to have some negative words said to them for what took place in the past. None of that was listened to. We were having big troubles on the river and we were trying to get help and we got nowhere on it. Even with a big study on it, it felt like a cover up. But now, ADFG is in a different position. We don't have any excess fish to go to the spawning grounds. We don't have any extra fish, even

for the subsistence. 10 years ago, or more, we passed the point where we can really do anything about this run. So what are we going to do with a run that cannot reproduce itself unless everything is perfect. And nothing is perfect, there has always been disease or a warm year. No we have these real bad things, and the run is so small now, even on a decent year. The numbers coming in and the size of the fish, which is a big deal because the size of the fish determines the number of eggs. We could be putting like 50% less eggs on the spawning grounds than we used to. So what do we do? Do we shut down fishing completely which will kill the subsistence lifestyle? I hear about reducing the escapement goals. Well that didn't work in the past. Reluctance in the department to shut down commercial fishing, that to me, has put us where we are now. We could have back off on commercial fishing but that didn't happen because of the immense pressures on the river. That didn't happen because one board member voted that there was something wrong on the river. That was 2009. People say we have been conserving for so long. That is not true. I believe that ADFG sold us a story. They present and tell us that the fish are increasing and we are putting too many fish on the spawning grounds. Now we have the situation and ADFG is walking this fine line of trying to give people a little bit of fish. Now ADFG is trying to be good to the people and good to the fish but that is not the way to go. I think it is good for people to express their frustration and be mad because there is something to be mad about.

Otis Sipary: Boats in the ocean are using three mile nets, they should use dip nets like us. Need shorter hours for them too.

Dorothy Shockley: Express my frustration, allot of factors going on here, low run and management state or federal. My frustration is listening to people and local knowledge, people have been expressing that for 40/50 years. And still things that Stan said are better, so people are listening. Whether or not they are doing anything is a different story. When a decision needs to be made by management, what percentage of local knowledge is used? As far as the first priorities, getting fish to spawning grounds, with the state it is written that subsistence is priority but it really is not. Other fishing, money talks (commercial, sports, etc). One or two in the subsistence role. So frustrating to hear this year after year. Other questions, if you keep doing the same time over and over and expect a different outcome it just isn't not going to happen. What do we need to change in making these decisions so we have a better outcome. What are your plans as managers? We are already predicting a couple years of low runs, what are your plans? What are you going to do that is different?

- **Deena ADF&G-** In season, we listen to the YRDFA calls. Holly's cell phone number is out there. Fishermen call her all the time. I encourage you to call us. We get feedback from fishers all the time. It's not just TEK it's also local knowledge, allowable gear, observations. When we have proposals, we get to hear about how they would affect things. Even if we do the same thing, we come up with a management strategy that we think will work, we don't always get the same outcome because we have different conditions. But conditions are always changing, we have to be really adaptive. We have to wait until we get fish in the river and see what their timing is, abundance. Each year we have to react to the run.

Allen Hansen: Been involved with YRDFA for many years, past uncle and all his buddies have been in YRDFA for many years. They have been struggling like we are right now. Trying to make best determination for what is happening. Maybe we need to try something different, something like what Canada is doing. Just something to throw in.

Ben Stevens - As most folks know, I fish between Stevens Village and Beaver. A lot of folks depend on us to share and a lot of folks eat from our fish camp. These days that is impossible. I am feeling the pain. It is getting really hard to continue to trudge on every year hearing the same thing from fishers and agency folks. We are having a hard time and the trend continues to go down. I want to support comments people made about us always doing the same thing and expect the same results. Maybe it is time to step out of the role and things we have been doing the same thing. I don't know if the people along the river can handle not pulling at least some salmon out of the river. I am not sure telling the people to conserve more is the best idea. Maybe we need to look somewhere else. The marine environment. Huge commercial environment out there. Especially since the salmon spend 85-90% of their time in the ocean. I also think YR fishers do not understand the NPFMC. Maybe it is time for a change about that.

Fall Season Overview:

Jeff Estensen ADF&G - Acting Yukon River Fall Season Salmon Manager - *Steadily getting into fall season. The Lower Yukon is in fall management, the upper river is still in summer. Last week actually, there were fall chum in the river.*

Holly Carroll USF&W - Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries Manager- *Preliminary projection, inseason data , more available. Salmon dominated by age 4 fish. Poor survival is indicted. Lack of age 4 expected to result in lower abundance.*

Geral Maschmann USF&W - Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries Assistant Manager- *First fall chum came in, wasn't very big, but we are keeping an eye on it and the weather. Aren't seeing the winds right now. It is common to have the lull between runs, which looks like what we are seeing right now. As migration reaches other areas, they will start seeing fall management.*

Questions and Discussion:

Victor Lord: Do you still have an office in the federal building in Fairbanks?

- **Gerald Maschmann:** Yes, but working from home not sure when we will be back in office.

Dorothy Shockley: Looking at the fall chum runs, being the lowest on record. Have you talked to elders in villages, have they seen this before? Thoughts? Predictions?

- **Jeff Estensen:** Yes we have. Not so much for the future, but how they looked in general. One elder in Tanana did make a comment that last time he saw something like this was before the 2000 run. We have gotten input if this has been seen before. We are fully

prepared that this could be sustained, could be in the same boat next year. We take information to heart and it is good information to have.

Fred Huntington: When you talk about the crash and history of the Yukon, my step father explained to me: the temperature was very cold for six weeks. Freeze up goes into gravel where the spawning salmon were and they died off. 1928 no salmon on the river whatsoever. Stories from elders about the salmon were passed on before they started recording temperatures and other things. I don't consider myself an elder, but everyone else does. Been fishing on a river for all my life, 71 years.

Unidentified Speaker: At the preseason meeting we are going to want input from folks who have seen this before and what they think are going to happen and apply it to next year. Hear comments through the winter as well.

Ben Stevens: One thing to mention to Gerald, he mentioned three projects that didn't get off the ground because of COVID. What is the difference between the projects?

- **Gerald Maschmann:** Henshaw creek and another location. Henshaw TCC operates in upper koyukuk. Is towards the mouth of Koyukuk. Similar projects, one counts fish in lower drainage and other in the upper
- **Ben Stevens:** The science is the same, one administered by TCC and other by you guys. If you can't do the project there are others that can do it. Do not want to lose another year of data.

Fred Huntington: There is only 3 or 4 hundred river miles between the two projects...

- **Gerald Maschmann:** Through genetic testing, even though they are the same stocks they are related to other regional stocks.
- **Fred Huntington:** Henshaw received more dog salmon.

Martin - Pilot Station, the villages below used to harvest lampreys or eels. We usually get them in early November, mid Nov. It's been 4 years since we've been able to get any eels. They are really fat here where we get them. Part of the catch we give to the dogs. On the Kusko, they were expecting a second run of eels. I don't know if there is anything that has caused this. I don't know any village that has caught any eels up to Pilot Station.

- **Deena ADF&G:** We do pay attention to the lampreys fisheries, there has been a lot of issues with ice conditions to go out and look for eels. There is a winter commercial lamprey fishery. Tag trials in Fairbanks with shipped eels. Ideally we will tag eels in the river and learn where they go. It's just really hard with the ice.

Fishing Disaster Declaration Update:

Serena Fitka: We just had our annual board meeting. YRDFA board did pass a resolution asking the Governor to declare a fishing disaster for the Yukon River. A letter was sent to the Governor in November from YRDFA, YDFDA, YRITFC. Rep. Foster gave an update on where they are at. We are still waiting to hear back from the Governor. House District 39 Foster and Donny Olson submitted a letter urging the Governor to make a decision. We have received more resolution

so I will be forwarding this to the Governor's office. We will also be requesting support from Senators and Dan Sullivan urging them to push forward and have their support.

Questions and Discussion:

Roberta: Is this part of COVID relief funds? Earlier this year there was a letter saying fisherman could apply for disaster funding. Called number in Palmer. Where is this funding coming from?

- **Serena Fitka:** One funding is for tariff relief, other funding from CARES has not come through yet. Does anyone know the status for the CARES money? YRDFA did put in comments for the percentage of 3% for subsistence being too low, subsistence increased to 5%.
- **Roberta:** If fisherman did not fish or could not fish in 2019, if no poundage they would not get relief from this funding. I for one could not fish because my motor broke and no one would call me back from Kwikpak for 5 weeks. When we want help no one calls us back. To have no poundage, for not commercial fishing when we have motor problems, and then they close Y2 because of COVID.
- **Serena** - The tariff, that is for commercial fishing, if the Governor does declare a fishing disaster then the department of commerce would determine funding. And that process is going to take a while, a year or two. Unless we can really advocate for that funding to take place. For the CARES relief, I did see something posted yesterday to ADFG website, but I think you are specifically talking to the CARES relief act. If you need assistance with getting through to someone at Kwikpak, we can help you with that.
- **Roberta:** Was not sure which part was CARES or disaster. I believe everyone who has a permit should get relief, not base it on poundage. We tried to get the motor fixed in order to fish.

Fred Huntington: CARES act funding was \$50 million for the state, 63% went to commercial, 33% sport, 3% (may have gone up one or two percent) for subsistence. They were not able to fish for some years. I felt the subsistence fishermen on the Yukon river were not represented. The state board of fisheries determined what they were going to get. We should have had representation. Not in my view, the proper way to distribute it.

Serena Fitka: There was a release that was sent out December 7th for the final draft plan, showing the breakdowns of those allocations.

Martin- Can I get that person's name with the Lamprey tagging?

Deena ADF&G - Please get a hold of me. 907-459-7309. Sabrina Garcia and others are working on this.

Allen: Facebook page for YRDFA?

Gerald Maschmann: Some news. President elect Joe Biden has nominated Deb Holin from New Mexico and if confirmed she would be the first Native American in the cabinet in history.

Victor Lord: For Dorothy, she said money talks. The pollock fisheries out there are in the billions. That's the fishery in the Bering Sea outside the mouth of the Yukon.

Allen Hansen: Even though they are a billion dollar industry, I am pretty sure we can get a hold of our representatives and they can do something different.

Bill Alstrom: That's a multi billion dollar industry and we are just a drop in the bucket.

Fred Huntington: They are all wearing rolex watches and driving cadillacs.

Closing Remarks:

Serena Fitka: Thanks everyone for joining in on the call. Great discussion. A summary will be posted next week. Reminder about off season teleconference on January 19th at 1pm. Diana Stram will be giving an update on Bycatch. Same number, same pin.

Call ended 3:56pm