

Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 11th Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Call lasted 58 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.

Special message; Danielle-YRDFA Communications and Outreach Director

-The YRDFA board has shared over the years the importance of integrating the upcoming generation to fisheries meetings and the board. Young fisher workshops are one of the building capacity methods YRDFA is using to reach more young people.

-We've set the date for the 3rd Young Fisher's Workshop.

-It will be October 5-8, 2018 so please mark your calendars. This is over the weekend to accommodate those who may not be able to get 4 days off of work. The 5th and the 8th will be travel days.

-The location will be in a rural community and the decision will be made by August 15th.

-The Vision of the workshop is to inspire young adult fishers to engage in fisheries management activities as well as lead the way to a sustainable fishery on the Yukon River.

-The Goal is to engage with Yukon River young adult fishers and build their capacity to participate in the management of their fishery.

-We plan to have 20 young fishers attend which will include 10 upriver and 10 downriver representatives.

Contact Danielle at: 877/999/8566 or danielle@yukonsalmon.org

Media participating: KZPA radio-Fort Yukon

Communities participating this week:

Alaska Communities:

Alakanuk: no interviews, tides high and low. No complaints from fishers.

Marshall: no Kings for past 2 weeks. Chum, coho and silvers are fantastic, large. Water down 5-7". No subsistence fishing taking place now. Berry picking and moose hunting underway.

Russian Mission: little to no fishing, all picking berries. Chums starting to hit. Hard rain today, water coming up. Harvesting humpies for dogs slowing down. Whitefish picking up.

Grayling: not many out. One fisher got 90 fall chum. Water coming back up. Did not know moose season is open.

Koyukuk: nobody fishing for last 2 weeks. Fished several hours and caught 10 summer chum. Water up 1.5".

Fort Yukon: not much to report, water coming up, same rainy weather. All getting geared up to hunt and for fall chum.

Eagle: everyone is done here with subsistence harvest. Water level pretty high, getting a bit of rain, needed it-couple of fires nearby. Folks hunting and berry picking and then fall chum.

Yukon Territory Canada Communities:

Mayo: not much to report, all done with fishing. Water high, lots of rain. Gearing up for hunting.

Teslin: 24 radio tags out. Limited fishery opened. Water level dropping through August.

Whitehorse: Weather moving into fall, cooling down and some rain. Had opportunity to stop in at Circle AK, had never visited that community.

Questions and discussion:

Q) Fred H-been fishing, got maybe 22 chums 1st of August, hit and miss run. Can we extend openings to 7 days a week? Really high water-6", weather is a factor. Requesting 7 day in Y4. Jeff-brought up in our meeting this morning. Factoring in subsistence fishing 7 days/week due to severe king conservation to make sure folks had opportunity to get fall chum. Last year the same. This year coming in average, so not nearly as strong as last years. We'll discuss and I'll give ya a call. Gilbert H-remember how these come in in pulses. One pulse coming in Friday and it closes and Ruby too will miss that and sadly only good weather and big chance we have.

(Q) King salmon count at Pilot Station? Deena 161,900.

(Q) Norma-does radiation affect our salmon? Jeff-not directly the state of AK, but I do know that is being monitored. Fukushima was a big question after the accident and no indication of a problem. I'm sure missile launches are checked too. N-been fishing for past 30 years and haven't seen such large silvers till the past 2 years! First time seeing that? After Fukushima we see larger fish. Jeff-when we see and hear the comments about how big and bright the fall chum are we feel the marine environment is good for them. N-concerning commercial fishing, glad for the early openings as Marshall has to go down river to deliver. Jeff-as days get shorter more of a challenge to provide that. Mary Ellen-we are continuing studies on radiation in the Pacific Northwest and we can partner with YRDFA to get that out.

(Q) Norma-where are the red salmon going? We see them in our slough. Jeff-Andreafsy weir operated by USFWS counts about a 1000 sockeye and some other reports along the river. The documented spawning population is in Andreafsky. N-like to add, in Marshall 8 mile below we see them in a slough every year.

Carl-been participating in calls quite some time, at least 20 years, its been 20 years we have not fished for salmon and the elders noticed the fish getting smaller. Do not fish chum. Don't know why the size is getting smaller. May be release of other salmon into the ocean is a greater concern than Fukushima. I think it's overstocking and releasing smolts into the Bering Sea.

(Q) Fred-there was talk of glowing fish? Jeff-I do not recall. Have not had it come up recently. Bonnie-was a bacteria on the fish. F-what caused that? B-they are just there.

(Q) Norma-does the young fishers program have anyone from Marshall? Danielle-all the spots are not filled, open till 8/30. Questionnaire going to all tribal offices. N-please fax to Marshall. D-ok.

Carl-not sure what that is. From my last Education Exchange, really needed. Only open to AK but a shame cause I think there is a lot of misunderstanding on both sides. We need more education along the whole river. Danielle-thank you. We'll be in touch. C-it's International Year of the Salmon!

Closing out, YRDFA would like to thank everyone joining the call today and we hope the information shared was useful for Yukon River fishing communities and fishery managers. Maintaining a sustainable fishery can only be achieved by everyone working together. Join us next Tuesday and support your fishing future. Thanks everyone!

Further Information:

For further information, please contact the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at 907-272-3131 or look for us on the web at www.yukonsalmon.org.

For Alaskan 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>