



**YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

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

Here is a summary of the 3rd, 2020 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020. Call lasted 63 minutes. 64 callers participated.

**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. Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.

**Media present:** KZPA, Fort Yukon 900AM

**Political Representatives participating:** None

**Communities participating: 18**

Alakanuk  
Mt. Village  
St. Marys  
Marshall  
Russian Mission  
Anvik  
Nulato  
Koyukuk  
Allakaket  
Galena  
Ruby  
Tanana  
Fort Yukon  
Minto  
Nenana  
Dawson  
Teslin  
White Horse

**Community level reports:**

**Coastal District 1-Lower Yukon**

**Alakanuk: Pamela Cook-** For the week ending May 27-31, I contacted 11 households. Only 2 fished, 9 did not. River conditions are fast currents, high water. Fishers are preparing their boats and nets for subsistence fishing. Everyone is still waiting for fish. I could not get a hold of a lot of people because they were out harvesting other subsistence items. Plenty of people with mechanical issues with their outboard motors. One king and one chum caught by one of the two people that fished. People are using 6" set nets. There is a lot of debris in the water and fast current. I get off quarantine tomorrow so I will have better numbers in the following weeks. I have a question for the managers. Are dip nets possible to be used? Exactly what gear type is allowable now. What net size?

**Holly Carroll (ADFG):** Yes dip nets are legal and legal since 2019.

### **District 2-Coastal/Lower Yukon**

**Mt. Village: Nita Stevens** - There are people who are starting to drift. A couple people caught a couple of fish. There is no debris in the river. The water is still high.

**St. Marys: George Beans with Yupiit of Andreafski-** No one is out (on the river) there but have heard some reports of fish caught. Not sure if river is still high but heard it was dropping.

**Bill Alstrom-** Just like George, I haven't been out to the Yukon.

**Marshall: Norma Evan** - There was one king reported caught yesterday and sheefish. Compared to last year, this start of subsistence fishing is similar. Only one person fishing. Some are rebuilding their smokehouses. Water went down about 4' since last week's teleconference. Some families are still logging. We did a beach cleanup.

### **District 3-Coastal/Lower Yukon**

**Russian Mission: Basil Larsen-** There was a thunderstorm that rolled through the other day. When you climbed up on the water tower, if you looked west you could see a fire. There is another fire 16 miles north of Kako (5 or 6 miles from RM west). Smoked out today, with breeze. I tore my cutting rack down and we were rebuilding it. I haven't set a net in yet but I will soon. Water is dropping slowly but surely. Maybe 3 feet under bank. Not much debris in the river but a lot of debris coming out of the creeks. Parents and brother went camping and saw a lot of debris on their way home. Not much fishing activity going on. Has been receiving sheefish for dog yard.

### **District 4a-Upper Yukon**

**Anvik: Alberta Walker-** Haven't done any reporting but heard one person caught one small king here. River conditions a little bit high. Fishers are getting ready to fish.

**Ken Chase-** I was upriver yesterday, 16 miles above Grayling. Water is pretty steady there. A bunch of smaller drift coming down. I think the water is rising upriver.

**Nulato: Arnold** - Nothing to report, people are getting smokehouses ready.

**Koyukuk: Benedict** - Last few days the river raised about 3 feet.

## **Koyukuk River**

**Allakaket: Pollock Simon, Sr.** - Water is still high, snow still in mountains, warmer for a few days. Fish nets in slough for whitefish and pike. Water is going to be high here for a while.

## **Districts 4b & c-Upper Yukon**

**Galena: Howard** - The water is raising steadily, about a foot a day. About 5 feet in the last few days. Rain in the last few days. Very little activity. One person has been fishing but hasn't had any luck yet.

**Ruby: Rachael Kangas** - Water has increased, literally overnight. Yesterday there was a sandbar visible from town and today it is gone. Debris is light. No one is fishing here.

**Don Honea** - The river, like Howard just mentioned, is raising pretty steadily and there is some debris in the river. Listening because he doesn't plan to fish for another 2 or 3 weeks. Not as much debris in the river as the last few weeks.

## **Districts 5a, b, c & d**

**Tanana: Stan Zuray** - Water levels is high and into bushes. Still slowly rising. Drift is increasing today. Few little pieces today. Very little fish camp activity. People have made trips to their camps but not much activity yet. Some whitefish nets are out around the village for dogs and people. Very dry weather. The fire danger is increasing. Covid news, air travel to Tanana is restricted. Need permission from Tribal Council. River travelers are asked to social distance while getting gas at the local station. Local residents are also asked to social distance.

**Fort Yukon: Andrew Firmin** - Not a lot to report. Warm sunny weather. Windy for the last few days. Water has come up but very little drift or debris in the river. Only a few people out fishing for whitefish. A few people are putting together fish wheels.

## **Districts 6a, b & c**

**Minto: Jeep** - Cotton blowing around the last few days. High water on the lakes.

**Nenana: Victor** - The river is pretty steady. I haven't put my boat in the water but I need to work on it. Thank god to Doyon who sent us a little money. That will enable me to fix it. Wondering how far the fish are. There are some nets in the river but I haven't been bugging them too much about what they are catching.

## **Canada**

**Dawson: Ken** - River is coming up. Klondike is raging into the bushes. Fabulous summer so far.

**Teslin: Carl Syndey** - Lots of water, same as what I heard, up in the bushes. Lots of rain in the past few days.

**Whitehorse: Jesse Trece**- I do have a raised hydrology update. Community management update.

## **Management Reports Agenda:**

**Holly Carroll** - ADFG Summer Season Yukon Area Manager

**Contact info: 907-267-2324**

\*Jeff Estensen with ADFG will give a fall report as the fall season will begin on July 15 /16 in the Y-1 lower river district

**Fred West (Summer Season Yukon Area Research Biologist)**- Brief overview. So far... a lot of feedback. First subsistence catch May 27 in the lower river. Subsistence catch for chum was May 28. Chinook caught as far upriver as Marshall. Makes sense. Between Marshall and Russian Mission/Holy Cross. They are starting to show up. Set net will go out once debris load and current drops. Not much of an eddy. Probably in the next couple of days. Crew is going out to check the site. Other update, we heard that the pilot sonar crew was going to fly to St. Marys' yesterday. Should be out getting their stuff ready. Plan to start counting on 5th or 7th. Hoping for a daily .... Technical issues with assessment workbook (?) Introduce assistant resource biologist Josh Clark. Took over Sean Larsen's position. Josh has experience on Kuskokwim and permitting. He is in charge of numbers.

**Holly Carroll (ADFG)** - We did put out our first news release. Like we said in our outlook flyer, we are taking a cautious approach. We are allowing fishing on the trickle and reducing the mesh size on the early part of the run. Reducing to 6". In District 1 on up, we are reducing to the ½ regulatory schedule.

Coastal District: Currently open with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. 2am Friday, June 5th Subsistence fishing will close. Subsistence salmon fishing will reopen Friday, June 5, at 2 p.m. with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Subsistence fishing will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

District 1 -change in their schedule and reduced gear size. 2, 18 hr periods. 2:00 pm Friday-8:00 am Saturday; 2:00 pm Tuesday - 8:00 am Wednesday.

June 10 - 2am district 3, fishing closes, re open at 2pm on Wed. 6" or smaller size net. 2 18 hr periods per week.

**(we can read news release for details at the following link:**

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1157944707.pdf>)

**Hotline - also on Facebook. 1-866-479-7387**

Other management actions - that is it for now. Commercial processors in the lower river are getting their crew together.

Gentleman last week asked about required forms. Related to mandates put out by state. We created a cheat sheet guide. Will be posting this later today on Facebook. Basically fishermen need one form in the boat - acknowledgement form. It states you have read the mandates. Need to keep a copy on board with them.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Gerald Maschmann (Fish Biologist)**: Nothing to report, Holly summarized well. We like to hear from fishermen. Please call the phone numbers for information.

### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

**Jesse Trece (Fisheries Manager)** : We are still in the planning phase. We are optimistic that our plan will be finalized in June, but due to the COVID challenge, there is a risk it will be delayed. The forecast is between 59k-65k, which is much lower.

Food security is a real concern. We are receiving reports that they are expecting an increased salmon harvest in their communities.

Special request that conservation is still top of mind, but please just only take what you need and maybe just a little less.

Questions from last week about snowpack and water levels.

In the White Horse area, snowpack was lower than average. Water levels right now are about average.

Minor flooding forecasted for porcupine, but it turned out to be less. Other areas were average snowpack water expected to be a little higher than normal.

### **Questions and discussion:**

Q// **Victor**: Where are the fish? King caught in Marshall? Holly, test nets catch King?

A// **Serena Fitka (YRDFA)**: Anvik reported King caught

**Holly Carroll (ADFG)**: Only drift nets out. 3 kings and a chum caught. Too much debris for set net. Reports of catches in single digits. But a lot of people aren't putting their nets in because of the drift.

Q//**Arnold**: What size nets can we use for set net?

A// **Holly Carroll (ADFG)**: You are not restricted yet.

Q//**Pam**: Are they able to dip net?

A//**Holly Carroll(ADFG)**: When you go subsistence fishing you can use a dip net. You can retain anything you catch??

Q//**Benedict in Koyukuk**: Reporting the last 3 days it raised, no drift and is calm.

A//**Holly Carroll (ADFG)**: First fish was caught downriver, but we are getting reports that fish are being caught as far up as Marshall

Q//**Bill**: Is there a restriction on the length of nets in terms of depth?

A//**Holly Carroll (ADFG)**: gill nets are not restricted by depth.

**Bill**: (inaudible)

**Holly Carroll(ADFG)**: We are already taking the action to protect the kings as they come in. In the last few years we've come to see the window schedule be the full schedule. When we are looking to protect the run, we are on half the schedule and we do that before the Kings are in the river. There may be some other restrictions later, but we need some numbers before we do that. We expect to have sonar counts by about the 5th.

Q//**Basil**: I missed a part earlier, are we able to use 7.5" or when do restrictions come in?

A//**Holly Carroll(ADFG)**: You are not restricted now, but 2am June 10, you will be closed, and at 2pm you will open to 6.5" gill nets and will have a half fishing schedule.